Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you use a seat belt when driving?

Let your voice be heard!
Go to
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PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS
PHASE 6

September 18, 2009

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

No Shield
President Barack Obama abruptly canceled a long-planned missile shield for Eastern Europe.

NATION...Page 10

Nurses' Week
The American Nephrology Nurses Association has designated Sept. 13 to 19 as Nephrology Nurses' Week.

MAHARLIKA...Page 12

All residents of Alamagan, Agrihan facing evacuation

US NAVY
An MH-60S helicopter from the Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 in Guam helps evacuate a family of six, including a newborn baby, from Alamagan to Saipan Thursday. Inset shows one of the evacuees being helped before boarding the aircraft.

Family of six, including infant, flown from Alamagan to Saipan

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A family of six, including a newborn baby, were flown by military helicopter from Alamagan to Saipan Thursday and the CNMI government is now trying to evacuate all 12 other residents on Alamagan and Agrihan due to the utter devastation sustained by both islands in the wake of Super Typhoon Choi-Wan.

Mark Pangelinan, Emergency Management Office deputy director, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that they informed Northern Islands Mayor Valentine Taisakan of their decision—"evacuate everybody, whether they like or not."

See RESIDENTS on Page 4

Tim Villagomez now in Arizona federal prison

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Villagomez

Former lieutenant governor Timothy P. Villagomez is now at the Federal Correctional Institution in Phoenix, Arizona, to serve his seven-year-and-three-month sentence for his role in the Rydlyme corruption scandal.

According to the U.S. Bureau of

See VILLAGOMEZ on Page 4

Many ex-scholars fail to pay govt back

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Scholarship Office, which administers the $3 million annual scholarship funds for Commonwealth students, has disclosed that many former grantees did not pay a penny back to the government.

As of last year, these scholars owed the government over $4 million, said Scholarship administrator Marissa Seman-Rasa, and majority of them are on default and did not take their responsi-

See EX-SCHOLARS on Page 4

Legislature to Fitial: Act now before CHC crisis escalates. PAGE 2
CPA reports $19K annual loss in parking permits. PAGE 3

Local

Legislature to Fitial: Act now before CHC crisis escalates

Joint legislative letter points to 'steadily declining' quality of care

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Senate President Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan) and House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) called on Gov. Benigno R. Fitial yesterday to immediately appoint qualified interim managers at the Commonwealth Health Center before the crisis at the government hospital escalates.

"The situation at [CHC] has reached a state of crisis that demands your immediate action," Reyes and Palacios told Fitial.

The two leaders said the quality of care at CHC "has steadily declined" as a result of "continued staffing shortages, regular physician turnover, and low employee morale."

"At its core, the CHC crisis is a problem of effective governance," the said.

The lawmakers said a bill establishing a corporation for public healthcare and related public health services will in the long-term provide a foundation for a high quality, efficient and market-oriented public healthcare delivery system.

"In the near term, the task is more pressing: The Executive Branch must recruit qualified professional staff to effectively manage CHC operations. We urge you to give this effort top priority," they told Fitial.

Fitial is currently off island, and is set to meet early next week with Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano on the implementation of the federalization law in the CNMI.

Press secretary Charles Reyes said yesterday the Fitial administration is reviewing the legislative leaders' joint letter.

"We welcome the Legislature's involvement in addressing our important public health care issues. This is a good thing. The Legislature should be involved in helping us better meet the health care needs of our community. We look forward to closely working with the Legislature to meet our public health care needs," he said.

In their two-page letter, Reyes and Palacios said residents are reluctant to seek treatment following a series of unfortunate and high-profile reports of accidents involving CHC patients.

On Sept. 3, for example, a patient whose face was allegedly set on fire while undergoing operation at CHC sued the government hospital.

Palacios and Reyes told the governor the Department of Public Health's modest resources are continually drained by expensive off-island referrals, the practice of engaging medical headhunters at a cost of $25,000 per successful physician hire, and an inefficient billing system.

"Finally, the CNMI government continues to pay out malpractice judgments that in many cases could be avoidable under proper operating conditions," they said.

Reyes and Palacios's letter came a day after House Committee on Health, Education and Welfare chair Rep. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) sent the media copies of his letter to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, sharing the results of the committee's survey among CHC employees and patients.

Among other things, the survey results cited mismanagement, doctor shortage, inadequate procurement practices, and poor records and billing systems as major concerns at CHC.

"The survey results indicate that CHC needs to overhaul its operation and approach to delivering quality health care," Torres told Sablan (D-MP).

See LEGISLATURE on Page 4

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CPA reports $19K annual loss in parking permits

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

For many years now, the Commonwealth Ports Authority has been losing over $19,000 annually from its parking system, mainly due to lax implementation of rules, according to a CPA board official.

Board member Benigno Sablan, who chairs the airport and seaports facilities committee, told the board Wednesday that among the significant factors that contributed to the revenue loss were the lax enforcement and the sharing and switching of parking permits among customers and patrons.

Since the start of the Fiscal Year 2009, the agency has already recorded $11,000 in losses from the parking system, or an average of about $5,000 in every three months, according to CPA comptroller Frances Mafnas.

The agency implemented a new parking system last month to stem the hemorrhage.

The system, which took effect on Aug. 20, requires CPA to issue a plastic card upon entry of vehicles; the card is returned when they exit. The new system reads the elapsed time between entry and exit and indicates the appropriate charge.

"Under the old system, we found a lot of individuals sharing and switching their parking permits. …With the new installed system, we're hoping it would be stopped and will take away the deficit," Mafnas told the board.

Preliminary data showed that the main terminal at the Saipan International Airport now collects $300 to $500 daily from parking spaces, she said, compared to the previous daily collection of just $130 to $160.

At the commuter terminal, the daily collection now reaches $150 daily, compared to the $300 collected for three months.

CPA executive director Efrain F. Camacho said the management is monitoring the first six months since the implementation of the system to see actual numbers.

"Although we're just starting the system, we're really seeing some good numbers and we will keep monitoring," Camacho assured the board.

Saipan Tribune learned that from the monthly average loss of $5,000 from the "old" parking system, CPA's monthly deficit is now at just $700.

Under the new parking system, the commuter terminal and the Port of Saipan gives a grace period of just 10 minutes, during which time there will be no charges.

When the elapsed time between entry and exit exceeds 10 minutes, CPA charges $1 for the first hour and an additional dollar for each additional hour or fraction of an hour.

The parking fee at the Saipan International Airport for the first hour is $1 and an additional dollar for each additional hour or a fraction of an hour. A total charge of $10 is collected for each 24-hour period parking at the main terminal, commuter terminal, and the Port of Saipan.

Over 200 voters register on final day of enrollment

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

An estimated 200-plus people trooped to the Commonwealth Election Commission's office on Capital Hill yesterday for the last-minute registration for the general elections on Nov. 7.

As of 5:45pm, staffers at the agency disclosed that a big bulk of the late registrants came in right after lunch, a majority of whom were accompanied by political party representatives.

To accommodate the late registrants, CEC remained open until 6pm yesterday. Late registrants were entered into the list after submitting the required documents.

As of Sept. 1, the total number of registered voters was already at 15,167 on three islands. The number is expected to exceed previous years' turnout.

There are four team candidates who are running for the governor and lieutenant governor positions: Covenant Party's Benigno R. Fitial and Eloy Inos; Republican Party's Heinz Hofschneider and Arnold Palacios; Independents Juan T. Guerrero and Joseph Camacho; and Independents Ramon Guerrero and David Borja.

There are a total of 110 certified candidates for the 40-plus positions up for grabs in November.

This will be the first time in CNMI history that a runoff election will be required if no candidate for governor gets more than half of the votes cast.

Early this week, Election Commission executive director Robert Guerrero said the agency will print 18,000 ballots to cover both the regular and absentee voters.

CEC dispatched personnel to all three islands and off island for its registration campaigns.

Election commissioners also approved the inclusion of three legislative initiatives in the November ballots.

These include House Legislative Initiative 15-3, which calls for people's approval in the selection of a student representative and teachers' representative to PSS, as well as a proposal to set the public schools' annual budget at no less than 15 percent of the general revenues of the CNMI.

This initiative also recommends that the student rep be selected by teachers at PSS and calls for the selection of the teachers' representative to be established by law. If ratified, both student and teachers reps will serve up to two terms.

The CEC also adopted House Legislative 16-11, which will prohibit the withdrawal of any funds from the general fund except for appropriations made by law.

Included in the same initiative is the proposal to hold the regular general elections during even-numbered years.

The election commission earlier confirmed the inclusion of one popular initiative in the general election ballot, which is to subject the Legislature to the provisions of the Open Government Act.

Over-the-cap salaries of 4 doctors, deputy AG certified

The Fitial administration has certified the over-the-cap salaries of four doctors at the Commonwealth Health Center and the newly appointed deputy attorney general, who will each receive over $50,000 a year.

The five certifications were issued between Aug. 26 and Sept. 3.

The Salary Amendment Act of 1992 sets the salary ceiling for government employees at $50,000. The law, however, gives the governor the authority to waive the ceiling, and submit a certification to the Legislature.

On Aug. 26, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial certified the $240,000 annual salary of Dr. Hormzadiar Dastoor, a nephrologist.

The Department of Public Health said Dastoor will be on a locum contract for two months, from Sept. 22 to Nov. 22, 2009.

Also on Aug. 26, Fitial also certified and granted approval to allow Dr. Jeri Manning Hallman, a surgeon, to receive an annual salary of $180,000. Hallman will be on a locum contract for three months, said DPH.

On the same day, Fitial also certified the $75,000 annual salary of newly appointed deputy attorney general Joseph LG. Taijeron.

Two days later, Fitial certified and granted approval to allow Dr. Joseph Sean Livingston, a pediatrician, to receive a salary of $110,500 a year. DPH said Livingston will provide services to the department on a one-month locum contract.

On Sept. 3, acting Gov. Eloy S. Inos certified and granted approval to allow Dr. DeLinda Wills to receive an annual salary of $180,000.

Fitial and Inos also advised the chairman of the Civil Service Commission of the salary certifications by copy of their letters. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

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NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Commonwealth Ports Authority hereby gives notice that a Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Wednesday, September 23, 2009, at 10:00 a.m. in the CPA Conference Room, Second Floor, Captain George F. Fleming Building at the Port of Saipan, Saipan.

The following items are on the agenda for the above-referenced meeting:

AGENDA

I. **PRELIMINARY MATTERS**
   1. Call to Order
   2. Roll Call
   3. Adoption of Agenda
   4. Adoption of Minutes (July 23, 2009 and September 17, 2009)

II. **BOARD ORGANIZATION**
   1. Election of Officers
   2. Appointments of Standing Committee Chairs and members

III. **CORRESPONDENCES**

IV. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**
   1. Financial Affairs Committee
   2. Airport Facilities Committee
   3. Seaport Facilities Committee
   4. Personnel Affairs Committee

IV. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

V. **OLD BUSINESS**
   NONE.

VI. **NEW BUSINESS**
   1. Worldwide Salvage Saipan, LLC
   2. Approval of 2010 Insurance Renewal
   3. Adoption of Fiscal Year 2008 Audit Report
   4. Draft Fiscal Year 2010 Budget
   5. Proposed AIP Projects for Rota and Tinian from Fiscal Year 2008-2011
   6. Status of Tinian Departure Terminal Building

VII. **MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS**

VIII. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

IX. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

X. **ADJOURNMENT**

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items.

EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.
Executive Director

September 18, 2009

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

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NMHC

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman, hereby gives notice to the general public that the Board will hold a Special Meeting on Thursday, September 24, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the NMHC Conference Room in Garapan, Saipan. The meeting was originally scheduled for Monday, September 14, 2009 but was canceled due to Typhoon Choi-Won. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

I. **PRELIMINARY MATTERS**
   A. Call to Order
   B. Roll Call

II. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

III. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES:** September 24, 2008 – Special Meeting
January 24, 2009 – Special Meeting
May 20, 2009 – Special Meeting
August 5, 2009 – Special Meeting

IV. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

V. **MORTGAGE CREDIT PROGRAMS**
   A. Loans for Approval
   B. Verification – Loan Conversion Requests
   C. Direct Family Home Loan (DFHL) Assistance

VI. **OTHER MATTERS**

VII. **ADJOURNMENT**

NOTE: Pursuant to PL 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in Executive Session.

/s/ **MARCIE M. TOMOKANE**
Chairwoman of the Board

NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity lender and employer.

OPA: No spike in election-related complaints

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office of the Public Auditor said there hasn't been an increase in complaints or requests for investigations and audits related to the Nov. 7 general elections.

"In fact, there seems to be fewer complaints than in previous years. Over the years, a typical election related complaint would be the use of government resources for campaigning," Public Auditor Michael Pai told *Saipan Tribune.*

In previous years, complaints or allegations involving the use of government vehicles or office supplies or government work hours for political campaigning were common, along with allegations of vote buying.

OPA has been conducting presentations about the CNMI Government Ethics Act to help deter abuse of authority and misuse of government resources, especially during election season.

There are 110 candidates in the Nov. 7 elections for 40-plus positions in government, including the governor and lieutenant governor.

Pai also reminded that OPA, in conjunction with the Commonwealth Election Commission, has scheduled presentations on campaign finance and reporting on Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

OPA said given the statutory restrictions relating to campaign spending and reporting, all candidates and their treasurers are strongly urged to attend. For more information, call OPA at 322-6481/2.

The schedule is as follows:

■ Tinian: Saturday, Sept. 19, from 1pm to 3pm, Northern Marianas College-Tinian Instructional Site, Room D

■ Rota: Friday, Sept. 25, from 5:30pm to 7:30pm, NMC-Rota Instructional Site, Building B - Room B2

■ Saipan: Tuesday, Oct. 6, from 5:30pm to 7:30pm, Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe.

MEN AT WORK

Despite the rainy weather, two employees of Misamis Construction repaint the signage in front of the Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building on Capital Hill yesterday afternoon. The legislative building is undergoing a long overdue roof repair, and recently installed glass doors to limit air leak in air-conditioned areas, thereby promoting energy efficiency. Federal stimulus funding will also be used for the retrofitting of lights and air conditioners at the building, which houses the offices of the CNMI's nine-member Senate and the 20-member House of Representatives.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

A special happy birthday to our dad, Paul DLG. Reyes, who is celebrating his birthday today, Sept. 19, 2009. Enjoy your special day and many more to come. We love you very much. Greetings coming from your children.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

VILLAGOMEZ

From Page 1

Prisons, Villagomez's actual or projected release date is on Dec. 17, 2015.

The Phoenix prison is a medium-security facility for male offenders. An adjacent satellite prison camp houses a minimum security facility for female offenders.

The Bureau of Prisons said the Federal Correctional Institution is about 25 miles north of downtown Phoenix, off Interstate 17 (Black Canyon Freeway) at the Pioneer Road Exit (Exit 225).

Villagomez's co-defendant, James A. Santos, is now at the United States Penitentiary-Victorville in Alelanto, California, where he is serving six years and six months in prison for his involvement in the scheme to defraud the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and the United States.

USP-Victorville is a high security facility housing male inmates. It is part of the Victorville Federal Correctional Complex. USP-Victorville is 85 miles northeast of Los Angeles on Interstate 15.

The Bureau of Prisons said Santos' actual or projected release date is on April 21, 2015.

James Santos' wife and co-defendant, Joaquina A. Santos, is listed as still in transit. She was also sentenced to six years and six months in prison for her role in the scheme.

Villagomez and the Santos couple were flown out from Saipan on Aug. 24 to begin serving their sentences in federal prison.

The three appealed their convictions and sentences to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. It remains pending.

EX-SCHOLARS

From Page 1

bility seriously.

Under the agreement signed between the scholar and the CNMI government, these students are required to pay back whatever amount is given them once they are employed.

Last year, a bill was enacted into law that would forego the collection of the educational financial assistance liability of returning college students who cannot find jobs in the private or public sector of the Commonwealth.

Seman-Rasa believes this law was unnecessary because previous recipients who have either graduated or who are no longer enrolled in school may request for a deferment of their payment provided they prove that they are actively seeking employment in the CNMI.

She was quick to add, though, that there are previous scholars who have honored their commitment to the CNMI government and who have found jobs in the public or private sector even if it was not their job of choice.

Seman-Rasa said the memorandum of agreement with the students never stated that they would be guaranteed a job because of their qualifications. The agreement only states that upon accepting each award, they are required to return and work in the CNMI for a time, depending on the amount of assistance that was received.

"We have many people paying back their awards either by working here in the CNMI or making monthly payments to the office if they have chosen to live abroad. These are previous recipients who honor their commitment and even if they decided not to return, they pay back what they owe," said Seman-Rasa.

There are even more previous scholars, however, who have failed to honor their commitment and they now collectively owe the government over $4 million. Seman-Rasa said this is unfortunate, considering the depleted coffers of the government.

"This government is in no position to be freely giving out money," she said.

The main reason why the scholarship assistance was made available in the first place was to build local capacity in the workforce, Seman-Rasa explained.

"Sometimes the part about the 'CNMI not having jobs' is an easy excuse for some who are not even actively seeking jobs," she said.

Saipan Tribune learned that in 2008, there were five honor scholarship recipients who graduated and were provided by the CNMI government some $375,000 in financial assistance during their college.

These individuals did not return and found jobs in the U.S. mainland shortly after graduation and have asked for a deferment on their payment.

RESIDENTS

From Page 1

"Everything on Alamagan is a total damage. It's a total loss," Pangelinan said.

One of two U.S. Navy helicopters picked up a family of six, including an infant, from Alamagan Tuesday morning and flew them to Saipan. The baby was born on Alamagan on Sunday.

"We had to medivac the newborn baby. We transported them all to the Commonwealth Health Center for medical checkup, all for…precautionary measures," Pangelinan said.

After being checked, the mother and the baby were released from the hospital yesterday. All six are now in a shelter at the Ada Gymnasium in Susupe.

Evacuation

Pangelinan said they began the evacuation Thursday at 7am in coordination with the U.S. Navy in Guam. The islands lie approximately 146 nautical miles north of Saipan.

He said they used the U.S. Navy ship *Alan Shepard* as a platform to transport the family and refuel the helicopters.

Pangelinan said residents of Alamagan and Agrihan were given water, food, blankets, nails, and other supplies. The food and water supply are enough for five days.

With the evacuation of six, only eight people are left on Alamagan. Four remain on Agrihan.

Right now, Pangelinan said, EMO and the Department of Finance are trying to charter a boat to evacuate all the remaining 12 people on the two islands.

"We want to evacuate everybody. It's a common sense. Why we should leave anybody behind?" the deputy director said, adding that all the water and food on Alamagan were blown away during the super typhoon.

Pangelinan said the Commission on Election sent a helicopter to the Northern Islands yesterday to register voters, so he let one of his staff join the group in order take pictures of the damage to property and crops and make an assessment report.

Pangelinan said all six houses on Alamagan—made up of wooden and tin materials—were blown away. He said only one structure remains standing—a facility for laboratory and research.

Packing 150 to 160 miles per hour, Super Typhoon Choi-Wan's center passed directly over Alamagan Tuesday afternoon.

Multimission

A U.S. Navy statement issued yesterday said that, in the aftermath of the super typhoon, the USNS *Alan Shepard* and two MH-60S helicopters from Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 were asked by Gov. Benigno Fitial to provide humanitarian support to residents of Alamagan and Agrihan.

The helicopters delivered to the islands various supplies, including more than 260 gallons of fresh water, 50 lbs of rice and other health and comfort items.

The squadron helicopter was responsible for evacuating the family of six from Alamagan to the *Shepard*, which is a Military Sealift Command dry cargo-ammunition ship.

On the ship, the family was assessed by a medical staff prior to being flown to Saipan for further medical treatment at CHC.

"USNS *Alan Shepard*'s multimission capabilities play a critical role in the maritime strategy, and we were uniquely equipped to handle humanitarian operations like this one and provide much needed support," said Shepard's civil service Master Capt. Greig Hague in the statement.

LEGISLATURE

From Page 2

'Alarmed'

Reyes and Palacios said they are "alarmed by the absence of a competent management team" at DPH and CHC.

"We understand that the secretary of Public Health is currently unable to discharge his official duties. We do not understand, however, the failure to appoint qualified interim managers to oversee the department's and CHC's daily operations. We call upon you to act immediately to hire these critical staff members before the crisis escalates," they told Fitial.

Acting Health Secretary Pete Untalan said Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez will be back to work in two weeks. Villagomez has been on medical leave for months.

In their letter, the lawmakers directed Fitial to the provisions establishing a chief executive officer proposed in a House bill.

Oversight

The two officials also informed Fitial that the Legislature will soon begin "CHC oversight proceedings."

"We feel it is out constitutional duty to protect the health and welfare of our residents through diligent monitoring of the Commonwealth's financial outlays," they said.

The House Committee on Health, Education and Welfare, and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare will jointly hold CHC oversight hearings beginning next week.

On Sept. 22, Tuesday, the House committee will receive testimony for DPH issues including those on doctors, nurses, emergencies, medical referrals and dialysis.

'Not political posturing'

Palacios and Reyes, who is seeking reelection, said they are aware that the commencement of oversight proceedings could be perceived as political posturing, particularly during an election year.

Palacios is a candidate for lieutenant governor under the Republican Party, while Reyes is seeking another term.

"At the same time, we are sure that you agree that the situation at CHC is now so acute that any and all remedial measures must be explored. Not only are patients potentially at risk, so too are payments from Medicare and Medicaid programs," Palacios and Reyes said.

They said the Legislature is ready to work with the administration to develop both immediate and long-term solutions to the problems at CHC, provided that swift, effective action is the guiding principle.

"We feel that any corrective action must begin with the retention of a qualified medical management team, but there are other measures that may be taken as well," they said.

They cited the comprehensive assessment of CHC begun by Dr. Donald Bader, but not completed due to lack of funds. They said the assessment is an important first step in identifying systemic problems in the department and confronting them before they adversely impact public health.

"Four our part, we are willing to support corrective legislative action, including but not limited to House Bill 16-9, HS1 (a bill establishing a corporation for public healthcare and related public health services. H.B. 16-91, HS1, now pending in the Senate, is a top legislative priority that has received support from your office in the past," they added.

Saipan student gets PREL scholarship award

"What do you want to be when you grow up?"

That was the question frequently asked of Saipan's Kristine Michaela Cruz by many of her teachers during her kindergarten through high school years on Saipan. Little did she know that she "would learn to embrace the love of teaching and, most of all the love of learning."

After graduating from Northern Marianas Academy, Cruz headed to Hawaii to further her education at the collegiate level. She began her studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, pursuing a degree of nursing and soon found her "heart was not at the right place."

Her passion was working with children. She was a youth leader in her church, a chairperson for sports teams, and most of all, she loved working with children—especially young children at the kindergarten and 1st grade levels.

Cruz

"I realized I was going to be someone I never imagine I'd be—a teacher!" she said. The College of Education at the University of Hawaii at Manoa is now the home base of Cruz's studies.

She applied for and was awarded an educational scholarship from Pacific Resources for Education and Learning at this year's Pacific Educational Conference in Guam. Each year PREL awards scholarships to U.S.-affiliated Pacific island teacher candidates who are in process of completing an accredited teacher preparation program.

Cruz has been accepted as a full-time student in dual preparation program in elementary and special education, pursuing her bachelor's degree in education. After graduating, Kristine plans to further her education, pursuing a degree at the master's level and then return to Saipan to teach and provide greater educational opportunities for Pacific children.

PREL said it is proud to contribute to Cruz's pursuit of her educational goals and wishes her great success.

PREL is an independent, nonprofit 501 (c)(3) corporation that serves the educational community in the U.S.-affiliated Pacific, the continental United States, and countries throughout the world. ***(PREL)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Info meeting on Laolao Bay road plan

A public information meeting about Laolao Bay Road and Coastal Management Project will be held at Kagman Community Center on Monday, Sept. 21 at 6:30pm.

The presentation will include results from a Laolao Bay user survey, as well as an overview of the road improvement plan by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

For details call DEQ at 664-8500 or Kathleen Herrmann at 287-8577. Food and drinks will be provided. ***(DEQ)***

Nepalese community marks Happy Vijaya Dashami

Happy Vijaya Dashami is one of the big festival of the Nepalese community. All Nepalese nationals on Saipan, Tinian and Rota are invited to this auspicious occasion on Sept. 27, 2009, 5pm, at the Main Pavilion of the Tachogna Beach in San Jose Village, Tinian.

Those who intend to participate should register before Sept. 25, 2009. For more information, contact Bal Keishna Thapa Magar at 287-8220 or Kedar Bahadur Shrestha at 287-0239. ***(PR)***

Brilliant Star School to mark UN International Peace Day

Monday, Sept. 21, marks the 10th annual United Nations International Peace Day. The upper elementary students at Brilliant Star School on Navy Hill have been learning about International Peace Day and will be participating in a variety of activities with the school to mark this occasion. At 8:30am, the students will unveil their 5-foot tall peace pole, featuring the words "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in Carolinian, Chamorro, Mandarin and English, and dedicate it to the school with a reading of class poetry. Later in the morning, the school will participate in "Sing Peace Around the World." The students will be joining children from around the globe, as Montessori schools worldwide come together to create 24 hours of singing with schools from 30 participating countries. ***(PR)***

WSR to lead Pinwheels for Peace project

On Sept. 21, 2009, William S. Reyes Elementary School plans to take part in an International art and literacy project, Pinwheels for Peace," by "planting" pinwheels with messages of peace at the WSR campus.

WSR Elementary School students will create pinwheels of all shapes and sizes. As part of the creation process, the students will write their thoughts about "war and peace, tolerance, living in harmony with others" on one side and on the other side, they will draw, paint, collage, etc. to visualize and express their feelings. The students will "plant" their pinwheels on the ground on International Day of Peace as a public statement and art exhibit. ***(PR)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP09-DOC-162

SUBMISSION: SEPTEMBER 30, 2009 • TIME: 11:00 A.M.

"OFFICE SPACE RENTAL FOR THE CENSUS 2010"

THE SPECIFICATION MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO MR. MICHAEL ADA, SECRETARY OF COMMERCE VIA E-MAIL TO depcommerce.ada@gmail.com OR FAX TO (670) 664-3067 NO LATER THAN **4:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, SEPTEMBER 24, 2009.**

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

THE LESSOR MUST COMPLY WITH CNMI PUBLIC LAW 5-23, ARTICLE 5, SECTION 8652 (a) - (d).

/s/ **MICHAEL ADA**
SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB09-DOC-161

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: SEPTEMBER 30, 2009 • TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF EIGHT (8) EXECUTIVE DESKS, TEN (10) STANDARD OFFICE DESKS, EIGHTEEN (18) EXECUTIVE STYLE OFFICE CHAIRS, ONE (1) CONFERENCE TABLE WITH 12 CHAIRS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THIS IS FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ **MICHAEL ADA**
SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

DISCONNECTION NOTICE

IT&E would like to remind its customers that payments not received by close of business on September 22nd, will result in temporary suspension of all telephone services after 6:00 p.m. on that day. To prevent temporary suspension, customers must pay their bills on or before September 22nd.

THIS WILL BE THE ONLY NOTIFICATION IT&E CUSTOMERS WILL RECEIVE*.

* You have the right to dispute this notice. You must state your claim in person or in writing no later than September 22nd. You must pay any amount not in dispute to avoid disconnection. Payment denotes acceptance of all charges.

If you have questions regarding billing or service please call Customer Service at **682-4ITE (4483)** or visit our Customer Service Representatives at our Chalan Lau-Lau Office.

IT&E
Life in Motion

NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT MEETINGS

National Historic Preservation Act meetings to support the proposed U.S. Marine Corps Relocation Project will be held to involve the public in the identification and possible treatments of historic properties on Tinian. The first meeting will be held at Tinian Elementary School on Tuesday September 22, 2009 starting at 8:00PM. A second public meeting on this subject will be held on Saipan at the Coastal Resources Management conference room on Wednesday September 23, 2009 starting at 8:00PM. For those who can't attend, we welcome your written comments sent to:

Commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Pacific
Environmental Planning (Code EV23)
258 Makalapa Drive, Suite 100
Pearl Harbor, HI 96860-3134

UNITED STATES
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
COUNCIL on DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
Developmental Disabilities Basic State Grant Program
Bldg. No 1312, Capitol Hill • P.O. Box 502565, Saipan, MP 96950-2565
Tel.: (670) 664-7000 • Fax: (670) 664-7030
Email: p.sablan@cnmicdd.org • Website: www.cnmicdd.org

4th Quarterly Council on Developmental Disabilities Board Meeting

Attention General Public:

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities under Chairperson Marissa Guerrero is hereby calling for the Fourth Quarterly Meeting to take place on September 22, 2009 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Saipan at the Council on Developmental Disabilities Conference Room. The meeting is called based upon the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities Bylaws (dated January 31, 2003).

Agenda

I. Call to Order
II. Roll Call
III. Establishment of Order
IV. Adoption of Agenda
V. Adoption of Minutes – July 6, 2009
VI. Committee Reports
  a. HR Committee
    i. Contract of Executive Director
  b. Call-A-Ride Committee Status Report
  c. Membership Committee Report
  d. Expiration of Members
VII. Reports
  a. Fiscal Officer
  b. Family 360 Updates/Report
  c. FS 360 Program Coordinator/System Navigator
  d. AT Program Coordinator
VIII. Old Business
  a. Review and Adoption of By-Laws
  b. Council Training in September
IX. New Business
  a. Election of CDD Secretary
  b. Election of Vice Chair
  c. State Plan 2011
X. Open Discussion
XI. Next meeting
XII. Adjournment

In accordance to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting and require special accommodations are requested to call the Council 3 days in advance at 664-7000. The Public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda above.

/s/ Marissa Guerrero, Chairperson

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XIX, Issue No. 225

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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Focus on transparency

This spring, President Obama reversed himself and decided to block the release of photographs showing the abuse of detainees by the U.S. military. Now, having lost in two lower federal courts, the administration is seeking review by the U.S. Supreme Court. The justices should decline the invitation.

The high court ordinarily agrees to hear cases that raise difficult questions on which lower courts have disagreed. But two courts found the legal issue in this case straightforward. The Freedom of Information Act allows for the non-disclosure of information that "could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual." The obvious purpose of that language is to protect individuals who might be identified and placed in harm's way.

The administration is offering a different argument. In her petition to the Supreme Court, U.S. Solicitor General Elena Kagan quoted Obama's warning that releasing the photos would "further inflame anti-American opinion and put our troops in greater danger."

No doubt these and other photos would feed anti-American propaganda, as did the stomach-turning images of abuse at the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq. It's doubtful, however, that they would provide much additional traction for enemies who already portray the United States as a nation of torturers. If anything, releasing the photos—with alterations to protect the identities of individuals—would underscore Obama's determination not to repeat the egregious violations of human rights that occurred during the Bush administration.

As we have argued before, suppressing images of atrocities—whether of Nazi concentration camps, lynchings in the American South or "tiger cages" in Vietnam—is an attempt to blot out the historical record. Besides, the attempt is likely to be unsuccessful, given the history of efforts to block the unauthorized release of embarrassing information. Ignoring those realities, the Senate has approved legislation that would allow the secretary of Defense to block release of photos of detainees captured abroad after 9/11. The House fortunately has not approved it.

Meanwhile, judges are charged with weighing the legality, not the wisdom, of withholding such photos. If the Supreme Court were to reverse or weaken the decisions of lower courts, the impact would extend far beyond this case. A dilution of the exemption in the FOIA for materials that would threaten individuals would be a license for future administrations to suppress all sorts of information on the grounds that it might exacerbate anti-Americanism. Obama was wrong to try to block the release of these photos. Neither the court nor Congress should compound his error.

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ACORN
DISGUISE WHAT YOU DO ON THESE APPLICATIONS. YOU DON'T WANT TO PUT DOWN YOU'RE INSURANCE AND DRUG COMPANY LOBBYISTS!
KEVIN SIERS ©2009 CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

The case of Caster Semenya

By MEGHAN DAUM
Special to the Los Angeles Times

Daum is an essayist and novelist in Los Angeles.

Magazine or TV makeovers are frequently as queasy-making as they are jaw-dropping. Whether the transformation involves weight loss, a new haircut, wardrobe, nose, or some combination thereof, the end result might have you going back to the "before" picture and wondering if more harm than good has been done.

This was exactly the case last week when South Africa's You magazine featured a cover story about Caster Semenya, the 18-year-old South African middle-distance runner who won the women's 800 meters in the World Championships in Berlin last month by an astonishing 2.45 seconds. Semenya immediately fell under gender scrutiny amid reports of her elevated testosterone levels and the aggrieved charges of fellow runners. Is she a man or a woman, race officials and the public wondered, as Semenya, under the orders of the International Assn. of Athletics Federation, began a series of gender tests. In the meantime, You magazine dressed her in stilettos, applied many layers of makeup and attributed to her such quotes as, "Now that I know what I can look like, I'd like to dress like this more often" and "I'd also like to learn to do my own makeup."

The test results were leaked to the media last week, and they showed Semenya is actually intersex, meaning she has male and female characteristics. Newspaper reports said she has internal testicles and lacks ovaries or a uterus. Semenya disappeared from public view and withdrew from a race she was scheduled to run last weekend. Meanwhile, IAAF officials are deciding whether she should be stripped of her title because her natural testosterone levels might afford her an unfair advantage in the women's competition.

Intersex conditions exist on a spectrum, with some people possessing obvious physical characteristics of both genders and others so apparently "normal" that they're not even aware of their condition (which appears to have been the case with Semenya, despite her deep voice and other masculine cues). As many questions as Semenya's case raises within the arena of athletics (and hers is not the first such case; in 2006, an intersex runner from India was stripped of a medal and later attempted suicide), it poses even more about maleness and femaleness in general.

Society, in large part, has grown accustomed to thinking about race, religion and even sexual identity in more than just binary terms—recognizing that people may be black and white, Catholic and Buddhist, even transgender—but being both sexes at once?

As it happens, however, Semenya's condition is hardly unheard of. According to data from the Intersex Society of North America, the number of people "whose bodies differ from standard male or female" account for one in 100 births, and babies that get surgery "to `normalize' genital appearance" account for one or two in every 1,000 births. Some have speculated that Semenya's particular condition is something called partial androgen insensitivity syndrome, which occurs in one of every 130,000 births. You do the math: In its most common form, being born intersex is rare but not vanishingly rare; by some measures, it's on the order of being born with red hair.

But that doesn't make Semenya's case any less troubling, poignant or compelling. Maybe that's because it reinforces gender stereotypes even as it appears to defy them. For those who champion women's potential and their equality with men, it was exciting to see the powerful Semenya win a race by a wide margin. But to learn that this woman won—for lack of a better way of putting it—because she competed at least partly on male terms sours the whole experience. It seems unfair to the other female runners, and worse, it forces a recognition of the irreducible fact that male hormones make you more physically powerful than female ones.

This may be obvious—and let's be reasonable, it's not anything to get terribly upset over—but there is something oddly deflating about being reminded once again just how unequal the sexes can be. Through no fault of her own—and clearly the athlete herself didn't set out to deceive anyone—Semenya performed a bait and switch. She made us think we were looking at a superwoman, only to learn later that her superness was dependent on a significant measure of masculinity. And her handlers, instead of giving the public time to digest the truth, exacerbated the feelings of betrayal by allowing her to be put on a magazine cover looking like a caricature of femininity.

In so doing, an athlete who had started to open people's eyes caused many to turn away in embarrassment. If I were Semenya, I wouldn't be planning to wear stilettos more often. I'd be getting ready to throw them.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

America by Rails Part 5: On the *Empire Builder* out of Portland

Travel notes, live and on virtual time (a social commentary)

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

The trek of Amtrak's *Empire Builder* begins from Portland/Seattle to Chicago traversing the three time zones of Pacific, Mountain and Central, from the coast through the Rockies, down the prairies and the plains to the lakes.

Starting with the sight of Mt. Hood sticking out like an iced-chocolate-dripping cake southeast of Portland, I crossed the Columbia River into the Washington State side, and watched Oregon's timber thin out to the leeward side of the Cascades.

The first hydroelectric dam elevates the river's water level and spreads it out like a lake, with surrounding orchards of peaches and grapes. I tried looking for the salmon steps provided for the annual freshwater spawning ritual of the saltwater creature but the train moved too fast, and the day was too soon for the legendary seasonal run upstream in spring and in the fall.

Native Americans of the Northwest revere the salmon in the same manner as the Hindus revere the cow. The salmon is looked upon as life, which nourishes the body and the spirit. Special rituals were observed as the sacred fish hurled itself upriver to lay its eggs and die. Permission was sought and rites affirmed its granting in earlier times, as natives in their canoes clubbed or speared the fish, eat it fresh and raw, with leftovers hung to dry as jerky. Now gillnets are floated along the side of the river as salmon is devoured as special treat in many parts of the world.

To harness the power of the stream, the Columbia was dammed for the turbines to created electricity. In the same fashion, the dry winds on the eastern slopes of the Blue Mountains are spinning windmills that generate power, part of Green State Oregon's dipping of its fuel stick into hydro, wind, and solar energy sources.

Pasco loomed as anchor of the tricities of Washington State that includes Kennewick and Richland, the core of agricultural lands sloping up to the northeast city of Spokane. It was one early December morning in 1975 when I drove out a Buick from a ranch outside Pasco toward the slopes heading to Spokane when I hit black ice on the road and overturned twice on a slope leading to a ravine. Seat-belted, my 80-year-old physician companion and I survived the double flip and actually drove the car back to the highway and, as common on such occasions, one's life flashes before one's consciousness. The doctor received a new lease on life, while the big question mark on the direction of mine was intensely and visibly lifted. Neither of us were ever the same again!

But on this long haul of the iron horse almost 30 years later, I was sitting with a descendant of the First Nation of Alberta and Montana, a member of the Blackfoot Federation that includes her *Siksika* tribe. I had lived in Saskatchewan, Canada shortly after the Pasco incident where the Blackfoot and their cousins, the Sioux, lived separate and apart.

My Blackfoot seatmate had just come from the reservation where a family funeral was held, and she was decrying the fact that members of her family no longer talked to each other, save as they communicate from a distance through the cell phone. "The art of talking to each other," she said, "has been lost, and now we only converse at funerals, and only to share maladies, and then afterwards when we fight over inheritance."

"Worse," she said, "we have built casinos, and the only object we now relate to is the one-armed bandit before which we can scream and shout." At the card tables, she added, there is only silence and observing of the stack, or the absence thereof, of chips in front of players.

The most interesting stories, including depressing ones, of life in the reservation came spewing out, and they were moving ones. Knowing too well the tyrannies of my fellow Methodists who lured native Americans away from their "pagan" cultures to follow by force and coercion the ways of the settlers and farmers, or the educated New Englanders, leaving blood trails from such institutions as the Willamette University in Salem, made the listening of the telling very compelling.

But the openness of the prairies and the plains released the entrapment of the confined human spirit, and upon hitting the border of North Dakota where a replica of a fort and teepees stood for tourists, my seatmate and I could chuckle over the ridiculous misfortunes of the past from which the majority cannot seem to learn lessons for the present. And the minority limp with the heavy burden of past wrongs.

At the diner, we were joined by an elderly AfroAm who migrated to Puget Sound, and having self-educated himself on the writings of Alvin Toffler and on the thoughts of Studs Terkel who wrote "I want people to talk to one another no matter what their difference of opinion might be," was going back to Atlanta for vacation with the self-assured style of one who knows where he stand, and can articulate the same. He worries how he might find the old confederate State he left a long time ago, given the current atmosphere of "hate" foisted on President Barrack Obama, which Georgian statesman Jimmy Carter just recently characterized as just simply "racist."

The Grand Forks Air Force Base houses the Air Mobility Command and an Air Refueling Squadron, while the Minot (pronounced, *my knot*) Air Force Base is home to an Operations Support Squadron. My seatmate alighted on this prairie land, as we thundered onward to the land of a thousand lakes and beyond to the Wisconsin dells.

My next seatmate turned out to be an interior and landscape designer who specializes in bike paths. Having just crooned over the "small is beautiful" culture of Oregon, and the blooming of organic farming in many towns of the prairies and the plains, I was all agog at the stories of this bright and committed young professional, in designing systems and structures at the human scale that deals with basic needs of transport and dwelling. There is hope for cities and neighborhoods in Paris and Moscow, Beijing and Beirut, Tokyo and Timbuktu.

If there is anything that this part of the journey had conveyed, it is that the doom and gloom portrayed by the practitioners of fear and anger so vividly played up by the media these days do not reflect the quiet creativity and progressive concerns of the railroad travelers who might just identify with the silent majority. To be sure, there are sour faces found in the train's observation deck, and my Blackfoot seatmate was not all sunshine, but the tone of conversations so far has been upbeat, with emphasis not on what was wrong, but on a yearning to do that which will make a difference.

There is a desire even to go beyond charity, as most genuine religious people are prone to do, to practical issues of justice as an indicative demand among spirit people, and hard as it is to banish the tactics of scare, the builders of the empire of care abounds much more.

Those who hate the President see him as an enemy

By COLBERT I. KING
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

On Aug. 16, pastor Steven Anderson of Faithful Word Baptist Church in Tempe, Ariz., told his congregation that he prays for the death of President Obama. In a sermon titled "Why I Hate Barack Obama," Anderson preached: "I'm not going to pray for his good, I'm going to pray he dies and goes to hell."

Anderson is not the only man of the cloth to wish widowhood upon Michelle Obama. In June, the Rev. Wiley Drake of First Southern Baptist Church in Buena Park, Calif., said he was praying for the president's death.

Anderson, however, was explicit in his wish. "I'd like him to die of natural causes. I don't want him to be a martyr; we don't need another holiday. I'd like to see him die, like Ted Kennedy, of brain cancer."

I pray God will not answer their petitions. While I'm at it, I'm going to send up one for the men and women of the Secret Service who endeavor to protect the nation's 44th president and his family.

There's something loose in the land, an ugliness and hatred directed toward Barack Obama, the nation's first African-American president, that takes the breath away. The thread of resentment is woven through conservative commentary, right-wing radio and cable TV shows, all the way to Capitol Hill.

Look back to Obama's speech to a joint session of Congress last week and South Carolina Republican Joe Wilson's crude "you lie" shout. Witness the boorish behavior in the GOP seats.

They are an inspiration to Obama-haters.

It's not just those calling on God to harm the president who cause worry; consider what comes with the territory.

The day after Anderson's "I Hate Barack Obama" sermon, Chris Broughton, a member of Anderson's congregation, appeared at Obama's speech in Arizona with an AR-15 and a pistol—not to harm the president, Broughton said, but to exercise his constitutional right to have weapons.

Then there are the walking time bombs.

Richard Poplawski of Pittsburgh slept with a gun under his pillow, hated Jews, feared Obama was scheming to take away his guns, and thought Obama got good press because he was black. In April, Poplawski showed he meant business. He fatally shot three police officers and wounded a fourth when they showed up at his house in response to a 911 call. Then there's George Sodini, who went to a Bridgeville, Pa., health club in August, opened his gym bag, pulled out a weapon and shot and killed three women and wounded nine others. Sodini had planned the shooting for the summer, but delayed because, as he wrote on his Web site, he wanted to "stick around to see the (presidential) election outcome."

Sodini wrote of Obama: "The liberal media LOVES him. Amerika has chosen The Black Man."

Sodini's writings revealed his contempt for black men and for white women whom he believed were beyond his reach. He wrote that, "dem white hoez dig da bruthrs! LOL. More so than they dig the white dudes! Every daddy know when he sends his little girl to college, she be (reference to sexual act) a bruthr real good. I saw it. Black dudes have their choice of the best white hoez."

Inflamed by sexual rejection and his hatred of black men, Sodini opened fire on those attending a fitness class filled with white women he apparently couldn't have.

OK, now let me have it: "King, you're generalizing, making a big story out of small, isolated examples. People like Anderson, Broughton and Drake, and shooters Poplawski and Sodini, are kooks, representing no one but themselves. Most people who oppose Obama don't want him dead. They wish him and his family no physical harm." I won't argue with that.

What I will say, however, is that a lot of malicious words have been thrown around about Obama since his election: words that inflame and that inspire the kind of hatred spewed from those two Arizona and California pulpits.

Right-wing ranters don't regard the president as a political opponent. Barack Obama, in their minds, is the enemy. He is, to them, dangerous and harmful to the country.

Do the Andersons and Drakes have a right to say they hate Obama and want him to die? Yes. Did Poplawski and Sodini have a right to trash the "liberal" press and expound their racist views? You bet.

Still, the depth of the hostility is extraordinary.

From a right-wing talk show host who opposed allowing students to see the president's education speech: "Make September 8 Parentally Approved Skip Day. You are your child's moral tutor, not that shady lawyer from Chicago." And from a parent's e-mail to a Florida TV station's Web site: "This is exactly how Hitler rose to power in Germany, by preaching to those most vulnerable members of society."

Smears? Paranoia? It's all sweet music to the ears of Lee Harvey Oswald wannabes.

If the president of the United States ever needed heartfelt prayers, it's now.

Letters to the Editor

Reminder to all registered voters

To all registered voters on Rota who are undecided, keep in mind that election is just two months from now. Being indecisive makes us all fall behind in our need to be heard. If you have not already made your decision, guide yourselves with their background and their relations with the public. That will give you confidence on who to vote for. It is very important that you all think for the better, not the past. Every general election deals with the past and we do not want that again. We want it to be about our future. All candidates seeking for seats are willing to help *now* and do everything they can to prioritize their people's needs but the question is, will they continue their services, or do just one thing and give up just to show people they are doing at least something? Once is not enough for people to be satisfied. Their professionalism is being judged and a true candidate is that person who is capable of serving, spending their time on important issues for the Commonwealth. Just remember that every vote counts and they should also keep in mind that every voice needs to be heard. So be reminded again to vote for those you think and know can perform the duties of becoming a true leader. This issue also refers to voters on Tinian and Saipan. We should all know that the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has only one heart. So let's all work together as one.

Abigail Manglona
Yona, Guam

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Light southwest winds.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

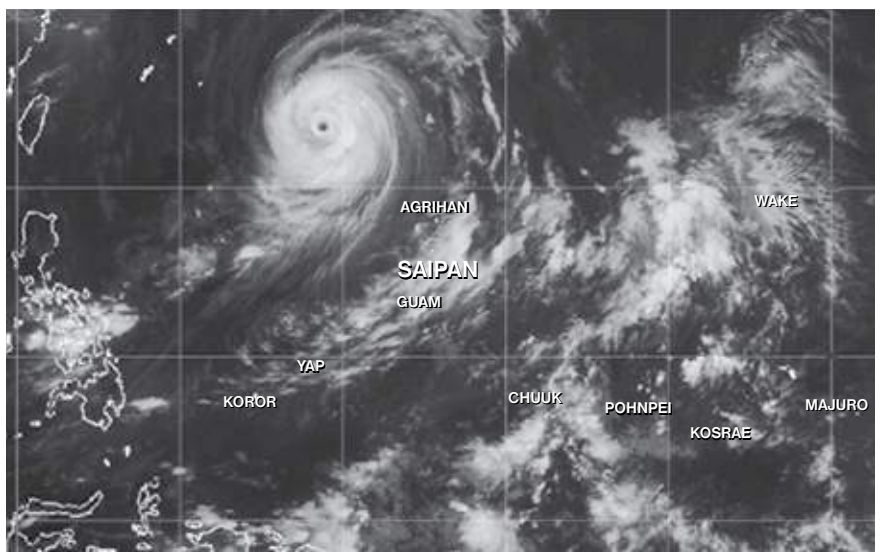
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲86	▼78
Palau	Partly Sunny	▲86	▼77
Yap	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼78
Chuuk	Showers	▲88	▼77
Pohnpei	Rain	▲87	▼77
Kosrae	Mostly Sunny	▲89	▼77
Majuro	Rain	▲84	▼79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲65	▼55
Beijing	Showers	▲64	▼52
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲93	▼81
Honolulu	Partly Sunny	▲86	▼76
London	Showers	▲68	▼54
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲90	▼66
Manila	Rain	▲87	▼77
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲71	▼43
Miami	Thundershowers	▲91	▼78
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲71	▼53
Osaka	Cloudy	▲76	▼60
Paris	Cloudy	▲71	▼54
Pusan	Sunny	▲76	▼55
Rome	Thundershowers	▲79	▼63
Salem	Showers	▲73	▼47
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲82	▼57
Seoul	Sunny	▲77	▼52
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲76	▼60
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲73	▼54

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Typhoon Choi-wan (15W) with maximum sustained winds of 125 mph is near 24N139E. Heavy rain and thunderstorms are within 125 miles of the center. Scattered showers and thunderstorms are embedded in spiral bands up to 250 miles from the center. Converging winds southeast of Choi-wan are producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms across the Mariana Islands within 150 miles of a line from 17N148E to 10N140E. For more information on Choi-wan, see JTWC bulletins issued under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW. An upper-level low near 22N159E is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms west of Wake Island within 125 miles of a line from 23N159E to 16N162E to 14N159E. A surface trough between Chuuk and Pohnpei extends from 8N155E to 1N155E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are near the equator within 50 miles of a line 4N143E to 1N140E and south of Chuuk within 75 miles of a line from 6N153E to 4N149E and between Chuuk and Pohnpei within 75 miles of a line 7N155E to 1N158E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near the date line east of Majuro or east of a line from 9N180 to 6N174E to 2N174E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:44 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
7:33 AM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
2:01 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
7:58 PM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:06 AM	6:16 PM
Sunday	6:06 AM	6:15 PM
Monday	6:06 AM	6:14 PM
Tuesday	6:06 AM	6:13 PM
Wednesday	6:06 AM	6:13 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:11 AM	6:24 PM
Sunday	7:07 AM	7:07 PM
Monday	8:04 AM	7:51 PM
Tuesday	9:00 AM	8:37 PM
Wednesday	9:57 AM	9:25 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 12, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:50am	12:25pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:20am	5:10am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:50am	1:20pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:30pm	1:20pm	4, 5
C09603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
C09605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

C0941	5:30am	8:05am	Daily
NW99	6:05am	8:40am	Daily
NW78	9:00am	2:05pm	Daily via NGO
NW75	3:50pm	6:25pm	Daily
C0943	5:25pm	8:00pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	1, 3, 4, 6

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW78	9:00am	11:40am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	1, 3, 4, 6 via KIX
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ604/703	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/933	3:30pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:45am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:15am	3:50am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:10am	2:40am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09598	2:10am	3:50am	5, 6 via ROP
C09316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:20am	11:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

C0942	9:25am	1:55pm	Daily
NW76	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW77	6:35pm	1:40am+1	Daily via NGO
NW100	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily
C0944	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:55pm	2:20am+1	2, 3, 5, 7

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW77	9:10pm	1:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	4, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	2, 3, 5, 7 via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA-SAIPAN

OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:50pm	2:30pm+1	3, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:30pm	4, 7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Schedule of Religious Services

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am
Monday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm
Saturday: 6am and 6pm

Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish
Wednesday Mass: 6pm
First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm
Saturday Mass: 6pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am

Saint Jude Parish
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm

San Antonio Parish
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Tuesday and Friday: 6pm

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am and 10am
Monday-Wednesday: 7pm
Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Sunday: 6am and 7:30am
Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 9am
Wednesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10:30am

San Vicente Parish
Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6pm

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10am-Baptism

Santa Soledad
Sunday: 7:30am

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm
Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Worship/Study Opportunities
Adult Sunday School: 9am
Youth Sunday School: 9am
English Worship Service Sunday: 10am
Sunday Service: 5:30pm
Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm
Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm
Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm;
Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm
Mid-week Service: 7:30pm
Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm
Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm
Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Worship Service: 9am
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am
Sunday: 7am
Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm
Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English)
Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church Koblerville
Sunday Services
9:00 AM
Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158
Pastor JJ Matsumoto

Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
English Service: 9-11am, Sunday
Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 8:20am
Sunday Adult: 10am
Sunday Adult: 11:30am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

Saipan Bible Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30-10am
Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 6pm
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church
(Formerly Saipan Baptist Church)
Afetna St., San Antonio
Sunday
9am Sunday school
10am Regular worship
6pm worship
Wednesday
7pm worship
Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. Mclure at 234-1939/235-7779.

Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi
Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon English service, Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Sept. 19, 2000

Japan travel advisory: Saipan 'dangerous'
A travel advisory issued by the Japanese government has listed the Northern Marianas, especially Saipan, as a dangerous destination for Japanese tourists due to growing crimes committed on the islands. In a travel advisory posted on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, it cautioned its citizens against traveling to the CNMI due to rampant crimes of robbery, murder, drug use, and smuggling. There is no immediate reaction from tourism officials regarding the advisory that is expected to cause a serious blow to government efforts to boost the ailing tourism industry, the backbone of the island's economy.

Gov't, CUC meet to reconcile billing records
The government is disputing utility charges in some departments and agencies that are now under review by both the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and the Department of Finance, according to administration officials. But they wouldn't say how much of the estimated $12.2 million that CUC has claimed they owed are being questioned, other than indicating that there would be "drastic change" in the amount once records are reconciled. They also declined to disclose which funding sources they would tap to settle the debt which has accumulated since late 1997 just before the continuous financial difficulties confronting the government began.

Sept. 19, 2001

Gov't warns of drastic budget cuts
Finance Secretary Lucy DLG. Nielsen yesterday warned department heads to expect "drastic cuts" in their budgetary allowance for Fiscal Year 2002, as collections are expected to drop due to the economic crisis besetting the CNMI in the wake of the terrorist attacks in the US mainland. This had Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio urging his Cabinet members to "control government expenditures" at all levels, even as the CNMI continues to reel from the effects of the terrorists attacks in New York and Washington D.C. In a special cabinet meeting yesterday morning, Tenorio discussed the necessity of revising the proposed $233.8 million Fiscal Year 2002 budget that is presently being reviewed at the Senate.

Higher power prices loom
Consumers hooked to the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation may be forced to pay higher bills once the utility firm implements a surcharge program that may levy on them the rising cost of fuel. The CUC Board of Directors, in a public hearing yesterday, adopted the recommendation of executive director Timothy Villagomez to start the research and development of a Fuel Surcharge Program, a proposal that was first brought up when the Gulf War broke out in 1990. Instead of raising power rates, which the CUC contemplated on implementing sometime in July when its operating deficit was announced to have reached roughly $3 million, the utility company may just levy its customers with fuel surcharges if the commodity's price continues to soar.

Sept. 19, 2002

312 govt workers face termination
About 312 government employees—including 32 division directors—are set to lose their civil service employment, after the Office of Personnel Management sent out advance termination notices to the different departments in compliance with Public Law 13-1. The Civil Service Commission, however, has opposed the move and has issued its own memorandum to the department heads, urging them to first review the OPM action with the Office of the Attorney General before taking any steps that may affect the employment status of their civil service employees. At the same time, the CSC has asked the AGO to issue a legal opinion on the OPM's reduction-in-force, saying there needs to have some clarification on the provisions being cited by the OPM in implementing the terminations.

Legislature eyes own homeland security department for CNMI
The Legislature is closely following up on the national debate over President Bush's homeland security proposal amid local plans to create the CNMI's own version of the federal department, in the event that the measure sees passage. Rep. Martin B. Ada, chair of the House Committee on Judicial and Governmental Operations, yesterday disclosed that lawmakers are targeting the creation of a homeland security department, citing a great need for its presence in the Commonwealth. Guam Delegate Robert Underwood, on behalf of U.S. territories, has reportedly introduced a resolution calling for the establishment of a homeland security department in Guam.

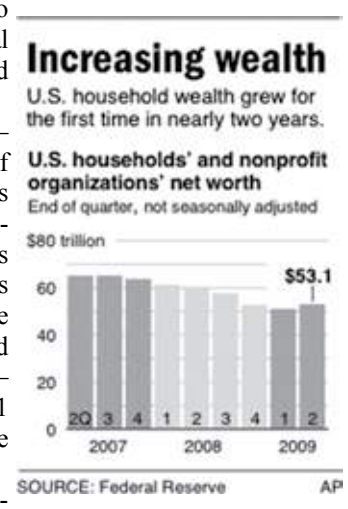
Business

US net worth grows for first time since '07

WASHINGTON (AP)—For the first time in two years, Americans actually got a little wealthier.

Household wealth grew by $2 trillion, or about 4 percent, this spring, ending the longest stretch of quarterly declines on records dating back to 1952, the Federal Reserve reported Thursday.

Net worth—the value of assets such as homes, checking accounts and investments minus debts like mortgages and credit cards—came to $53.1 trillion for the second quarter.



Stock portfolios came back to life this spring after the market hit its lows for the year in March, and home prices have stabilized. But the collective American wallet is still almost 20 percent thinner than it was when net worth peaked two years ago.

Some analysts say it could take as long as four years for households to recoup trillions in losses and get back to where they were before the downturn struck in December 2007.

"Households saw $14 trillion of wealth get blown away by the recession, and they recouped $2 trillion of that in the second quarter. That's good news," said Brian Bethune, economist at IHS Global Insight. "But they still have another $12 trillion to go to get back to where they were."

Many analysts expect the economic recovery to be lethargic, limiting further gains in the stock and housing markets. That's why Scott Hoyt, senior director of consumer economics at Moody's Economy.com, thinks household wealth won't rise back to pre-recession levels until 2012 or 2013.

"It is going to take a while for Americans to regain lost ground and become as comfortable as they were before all this started," Hoyt said.

Even if the economy continues to improve, analysts say the erosion of wealth will keep Americans thrifty for years. In fact, even as wealth grew, Americans trimmed their spending slightly in the spring.

The increase in wealth in the second quarter was led by stock portfolios, the Fed report said. The value of Americans' stock holdings rose almost 22 percent from the first quarter—the first increase in two years.

Higher home prices helped, too. The value of real-estate holdings rose 1.8 percent, the first gain since the end of 2006. Home prices are still about 30 percent below their 2006 peak.

World's 2 most valuable brands: Coca-Cola, IBM

By EMILY FREDRIX
AP MARKETING WRITER

Consumers lost trust in brands this year as the recession deepened, according to an industry report released Thursday, although longtime staples Coca-Cola and IBM retained their spots as the world's two most valuable brands.

This is the first time the combined value of the world's top 100 brands as ranked by Interbrand, a branding agency, has fallen in the 10 years Interbrand has assessed them.

ON THE NET
http://www.interbrand.com

The list's total value, including brands like Google Inc., Nintendo and Sony, fell 4.6 percent to $1.15 trillion, Interbrand estimates.

"That says something about the environment that we're in, especially when you consider that brands are by nature less volatile than business valuations," said Interbrand CEO Jez Frampton, who called a company's brand its most valuable asset.

The environment—a recession the likes of which the world hasn't seen for decades—has eaten away at people's trust in specific brands, starting with financial companies, he said. Consumers even started to question retail brands as stores slashed prices to get sales, leading consumers to wonder about pricing, and why they had to pay so much before.

"All of these things lead you to re-evaluate the nature of the relationships that we have with brands and indeed how confident we feel in brands to live up to the promises they make," he said. "Brands are promises which we value and are prepared to pay for and if we feel those promises have been broken we're less likely to trust."

Nation

Dems unhappy with proposed tax in health care bill

WASHINGTON (AP)—Unhappy Senate Democrats on Thursday found plenty to complain about in the fine print of the latest health overhaul bill, particularly a tax provision they fear would hit hard at middle-class Americans, from coal miners in West Virginia to firefighters in New York.

The opposition sprang up a day after Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus, D-Mont., unveiled long-delayed legislation that would transform the nation's health care system, requiring almost everyone to buy insurance, making insurance companies cover people with pre-existing medical conditions and reining in spiraling health care costs.

The bill has given fresh momentum to President Barack Obama's top domestic priority of extending health coverage and controlling costs.

To pay for the 10-year, $856 billion bill Baucus wants to tax high-value insurance plans, those worth $21,000 for a family and $8,000 for an individual. Baucus says those are "Cadillac plans" enjoyed by a small minority of Americans. Aides said about 10 percent of plans and 8 percent of taxpayers could be affected.

But other Democratic senators fear that the tax would reach deep into middle-class pocketbooks, and labor unions are upset. Two Democrats on the Finance Committee, Sens. John Kerry of Massachusetts and Jay Rockefeller of West Virginia, along with other senators, say they want to limit the tax before signing off on the bill.

"We need to make it fairer to working people so that working folks don't get dragged into this at a level where they just don't have the incomes to support it," Kerry told reporters after a closed-door committee meeting to discuss the bill. The panel will begin voting on the bill Tuesday.

AP

Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., left, and Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, right, talk as they walk out at the end of a meeting with Democrats on health care legislation, Thursday, Sept. 17, 2009, on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Rockefeller, who met privately with Obama on Wednesday, said the proposal "could prevent workers in high-risk professions from getting the health benefits that they need, particularly coal miners," a significant constituency in his state.

Insurers and business groups also oppose the new tax and other fees in the bill, and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce is wasting no time making its objections known. The chamber announced it will begin airing a new TV ad Friday in more than a dozen states lambasting "Washington politicians" who "want new taxes on health care companies—taxes that will get passed on to you."

Picture emerges of Yale suspect as controlling

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP)—As police charged a Yale animal lab technician with murdering a graduate student who worked in his building, a portrait began to emerge Thursday of an unpleasant stickler for the rules who often clashed with researchers and considered the mice cages his personal fiefdom.

Police charged 24-year-old Raymond Clark III with murder, arresting him at a motel a day after taking hair, fingernail and saliva samples to compare with evidence from the grisly crime scene at Yale's medical school.

Bond was set at $3 million for Clark, who kept his head down and said "Yes, your honor," when asked whether he understood his rights.

The muscular former high school baseball and football player is charged in the death of 24-year-old Annie Le, a pharmacology doctoral student at Yale who vanished Sept. 8. Her body was discovered five days later - what was to be her wedding day—stuffed into a utility compartment behind a wall in the basement of the research building where she and Clark worked.

Authorities offered no details about the crime Thursday. They would not discuss a motive, largely because Clark will not talk to police, and would not disclose the DNA test results or how they connected Clark to the slaying.

The Rev. Dennis Smith, a Le family spokesman, said he was not authorized to comment on the arrest. Smith said he did not know whether Le had ever complained about Clark.

Clark appeared in court with two public defenders who were new to the case. A private-practice attorney who had represented him during the investigation did not attend the hearing and said Thursday he no longer represents Clark. The attorney declined to give a reason.

Public defender Joseph Lopez said he was still reviewing the case and declined to comment.

Obama junks Bush's European missile defense plan

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama abruptly canceled a long-planned missile shield for Eastern Europe on Thursday, replacing a Bush-era project that was bitterly opposed by Russia with a plan he contended would better defend against a growing threat of Iranian missiles.

The United States will no longer seek to erect a missile base and radar site in Poland and the Czech Republic, poised at Russia's hemline. That change is bound to please the Russians, who had never accepted U.S. arguments, made by both the Bush and Obama administrations, that the shield was intended strictly as a defense against Iran and other "rogue states."

Scrapping the planned shield, however, means upending agreements with the host countries that had cost those allies political support among their own people. Obama called Polish and Czech leaders ahead of his announcement, and a team of senior diplomats and others flew to Europe to lay out the new plan.

President Barack Obama pauses in the East Room of the White House in Washington, Thursday, Sept. 17, 2009, during a ceremony where he awarded Army Sgt. 1st Class Jared C. Monti from Raynham, Mass. the Medal of Honor for his service in Afghanistan.

AP

"Our new missile defense architecture in Europe will provide stronger, smarter, and swifter defenses of American forces and America's allies," Obama said in announcing the shift.

Mass. House approves Sen. Kennedy succession bill

BOSTON (AP)—The Massachusetts House of Representatives approved a bill Thursday allowing Gov. Deval Patrick to name an interim appointment to the Senate seat left vacant by the death of Edward Kennedy.

The House voted 95-58 in favor of the bill. The bill now moves to the state Senate for its consideration.

House Speaker Robert DeLeo, a Democrat, said the change is needed to ensure Massachusetts continues to be represented by two senators until voters can choose a replacement during a Jan. 19 special election.

"I just want to make sure that Massachusetts has a say ... that Massachusetts has their voice heard on health care, on the environment, on clean energy," DeLeo said.

Patrick, a Democrat and ally of President Barack Obama, also supports the change.

Republicans, who number just 16 in the House, oppose the bill.

They point out that Democrats changed the succession law in 2004 to create a special election and block then-Gov. Mitt Romney, a Republican, from naming a temporary replacement if Sen. John Kerry had won his presidential bid.

To change the law now that there is a Democrat in the governor's office smacks of hypocrisy, they said.

ACROSS THE NATION

Lawyers try to stop second Ohio execution try

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—Lawyers plan state and federal lawsuits and a request to Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland to stop next week's unprecedented second execution attempt of a man whose lethal injection failed on Tuesday. Cleveland attorney Tim Sweeney said Thursday that he expects lawsuits to be filed no later than Friday in an effort to halt the next attempt to put Romell Broom to death. Sweeney argues that a second try at an execution is unconstitutional. At the very least, he said, Strickland should further delay Tuesday's execution. Broom "sustained both physical and mental injuries," Sweeney said. "It's going to take time for all the psychic trauma to dissipate. Even if it never goes away, I think it's wrong to try to do it again so quickly in these circumstances."

Teen Somali piracy suspect appears in NY court

NEW YORK (AP)—The prosecution of a Somali teenager accused of leading a pirate attack on an American cargo ship off the coast of Africa was taken off the fast track Thursday after a lawyer said more time will be needed to translate some Somali recordings into English. Abdiwali Abdiqadir Muse appeared briefly in U.S. District Court in Manhattan, where he was brought after his arrest aboard the U.S.-flagged Maersk Alabama in April. Authorities say Muse was the only surviving pirate of a group that he led in an attack off the coast of Africa on the cargo ship, which was carrying humanitarian supplies.

7 face porn charges at Wash. sex offender center

SEATTLE (AP)—Seven residents of a treatment center for sex offenders were indicted on child pornography charges after apparently obtaining illicit images while at the heavily secured facility. In unsealing the indictments Thursday, federal prosecutors said they didn't know how the defendants, who are prohibited from using the Internet, obtained the pornography, which allegedly was stored on their computers at the Special Commitment Center on McNeil Island. Among the possibilities: via the mail, or from a visitor or staff member. The seven men entered not guilty pleas during initial court appearances in Seattle on Thursday.

Identified amnesia patient doesn't know who he is

SEATTLE (AP)—It was seven weeks ago that Edward Lighthart walked out of a Seattle park with no idea of who he was and how he got there, the apparent victim of a bizarre case of amnesia. He says some memories have since been slowly trickling back, including slight recollections of living in China and Europe. But Lighthart still doesn't know who he is, and is frightened over whether he will ever be reconciled with the man people say he is. "The crux of the matter of who I really am isn't there yet," he said in an often-emotional interview with The Associated Press on Monday. "And I'm not sure that its going to come back. This is one of the frightening things."

Asia

Indian terror mastermind killed

SOLO, Indonesia (AP)—Special forces raided a hideout Thursday and killed militant mastermind Noordin Muhammed Top, striking at the heart of the terrorist network behind a deadly campaign of suicide attacks in Indonesia, including the Bali nightclub bombings.

AP
In this combination file photo released by the Indonesian National police, Malaysian terror suspect Noordin Muhammed Top is seen, more recently in photo at right.

It was the latest success against terror figures worldwide, starting with a U.S. missile that took out a key Taliban commander in Pakistan last month.

Besides knocking out Southeast Asia's most-wanted man, Thursday's operation also netted a fugitive bombmaker believed to have designed explosives for twin suicide bombings at luxury hotels in Jakarta in July.

A cunning and charismatic figure, Noordin had eluded capture for more than seven years. He was tracked down at a house in the city of Solo in central Java, a breeding ground for militant Islam, where an overnight siege and hours-long gunfight ended at dawn with an explosion.

The bodies of four suspects were recovered from the burned-out house, including Noordin and an alleged explosives expert, Bagus Budi Pranato, believed to have manufactured the bombs used by suicide attackers in the July 17 attacks on the J.W. Marriott and Ritz-Carlton hotels that killed seven and wounded more than 50.

Neighbors said the property was rented five months ago by a young couple who were teaching at a nearby Islamic school. The husband was among those killed in the firefight and his wife, who was pregnant, was wounded but was in stable condition at a hospital.

The prime target was Noordin, a Malaysian citizen and feared regional leader of al-Qaida with links to Osama bin Laden, said national police chief Bambang Hendarso Danuri.

SKorea: NKorea seeks recognition as nuclear state

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea is insisting on direct talks with the United States in an attempt to obtain recognition as a nuclear state, Seoul's top diplomat said Friday, warning that the North's atomic bombs are intended to target South Korea.

The remark—implying that the communist nation has no intention of giving up atomic weapons—is the latest in a series of warnings that a wary South Korea has issued ahead of possible one-on-one negotiations between the U.S. and North Korea.

After escalating tensions for months with nuclear and missile tests, Pyongyang recently offered to hold direct talks with the U.S.—a longstanding demand from the reclusive North which maintains it had to develop atomic bombs to cope with what it calls "U.S. nuclear threats"—which Washington denies making.

The U.S. is studying the offer, saying such talks could be worthwhile to get the North back into six-nation disarmament negotiations—that also involve China, Russia, South Korea and Japan. Pyongyang pulled out of the talks in April to protest international criticism of a rocket launch that other nations suspected was a test of long-range missile technology.

Afghan leader: Election 'true and fair'

KABUL (AP)—President Hamid Karzai called Afghanistan's disputed election "true and fair" and said he would not accept a second round of voting simply to satisfy critics claiming massive fraud, after European monitors said more than a quarter of the votes were suspect.

Karzai said any runoff must follow the legal re-counting process, likely to take weeks.

"We cannot claim a wrong and then commit another wrong in order to make a right," Karzai told CNN in an interview broadcast Thursday. He acknowledged irregularities and difficulties in the poll but said that overall the vote was honest.

"I can assure you, the vote was true and fair," he said.

Karzai has 54.6 percent of the vote in preliminary results, well ahead of his main challenger Abdullah Abdullah's 27.7 percent. However, a U.N.-backed complaints commission has ordered a recount of about 10 percent of polling stations. If enough of those votes are thrown out and Karzai drops below 50 percent, it would force him into a two-man runoff with Abdullah, a former foreign minister.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Pakistan: Al-Qaida commander killed in US strike

ISLAMABAD (AP)—U.S. missiles are believed to have killed an al-Qaida operations chief and a top Uzbek militant in northwest Pakistan, officials said Thursday, the latest apparent victories for the covert and controversial American program. If their deaths are confirmed, Ilyas Kashmiri and Nazimuddin, alias Yahyo, would be two of several militant leaders killed in Pakistan by missiles fired by unmanned U.S. drones. Just last month, a similar strike killed Pakistani Taliban chief Baitullah Mehsud. Pakistan's government publicly condemns the strikes, saying they fan anti-Americanism among its citizens and violate its sovereignty. But many observers believe Islamabad secretly endorses the program.

Malaysian court orders Muslim lovers caned for sex

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—An Islamic court has ordered an unmarried couple to be caned for trying to have sex in a car in the latest of a series of harsh punishments for Muslims in Malaysia, a lawyer said Friday. Though Malaysia has long been upheld as an example of a moderate Muslim-majority country, recent verdicts sentencing Muslims to whipping for drinking alcohol have made headlines. Two months ago, an Islamic judge triggered a national debate when he ordered a woman to be caned for drinking beer. In the latest case, the Shariah High Court in central Selangor state sentenced the couple Wednesday to six strokes of the cane after they pleaded guilty to trying to have sex out of wedlock in their car, said prosecutor Shafezan Rusli.

Myanmar's Suu Kyi appeals conviction

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Lawyers for detained opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi said they have a solid legal argument for their appeal Friday against her recent conviction that extended her house arrest and drew global outrage. Suu Kyi and reporters were barred from attending the appeal at the Yangon Divisional Court, which was expected to last one day, with a verdict delivered at a later date. Separately, the junta hastily granted amnesty to thousands of other prisoners expected to be freed Friday. A mass release had been anticipated for months but the timing appeared to be partially aimed at distracting attention from Suu Kyi's hearing.

World

UN agency: Iran can make bomb

VIENNA (AP)—Iran experts at the U.N nuclear monitoring agency believe Tehran has the ability to make a nuclear bomb and worked on developing a missile system that can carry an atomic warhead, according to a confidential report seen by The Associated Press.

The document drafted by senior officials at the International Atomic Energy Agency is the clearest indication yet that those officials share Washington's views on Iran's weapon-making capabilities and missile technology—even if they have not made those views public.

The document, titled "Possible Military Dimension of Iran's Nuclear Program," appeared to be the so-called IAEA "secret annex" on Iran's alleged nuclear arms program that the U.S., France, Israel and other IAEA members say is being withheld by agency chief Mohamed ElBaradei—claims the nuclear watchdog denies.

It is a record of IAEA findings since the agency began probing Iran's nuclear program in 2007 and has been continuously updated.

AP
In this July 15, 2008 file photo, The Director of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Mohamad El Baradei arrives for talks with German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier at the Foreign Ministry in Berlin.

The information in the document that is either new, more detailed or represents a more forthright conclusion than found in published IAEA reports includes:

■ The IAEA's assessment that Iran worked on developing a chamber inside a ballistic missile capable of housing a warhead payload "that is quite likely to be nuclear."

■ That Iran engaged in "probable testing" of explosives commonly used to detonate a nuclear warhead—a method known as a "full-scale hemispherical explosively driven shock system."

■ An assessment that Iran worked on developing a system "for initiating a hemispherical high explosive charge" of the kind used to help spark a nuclear blast.

In another key finding, an excerpt notes: "The agency ... assesses that Iran has sufficient information to be able to design and produce a workable implosion nuclear device (an atomic bomb) based on HEU (highly enriched uranium) as the fission fuel."

ElBaradei said in 2007 there was no "concrete evidence" that Iran was engaged in atomic weapons work—a source of friction with the United States, which has sought a hard-line stance on Tehran's nuclear ambitions.

Mexico closes drug rehab centers after attacks

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Authorities have closed 10 unregistered drug rehabilitation centers in Ciudad Juarez and say they are going after others they fear may serve as cover or recruiting grounds for drug trafficking gangs in the violence-plagued city across from El Paso, Texas.

Gunmen have slaughtered 28 people this month at two rehab centers in Ciudad Juarez in separate attacks that investigators blame on a bloody struggle between rival drug gangs.

Sergio Belmonte, the spokesman for the Ciudad Juarez mayor's office, says there is evidence traffickers are recruiting members through unregulated rehab centers.

"There are unregistered centers that they (traffickers) set up themselves, they are recruitment centers, because their most faithful soldiers are the addicts," Belmonte said. "They give them drugs, draw them together and recruit them."

Chihuahua state Gov. Jose Reyes Baeza said that while there are legitimate rehab centers, "there are others that have taken advantage of the situation to provide cover, while really doing other things."

Reyes Baeza said irregularities have been discovered in at least 12 other centers, including a lack of permits, and he pledged "we are going to close" them.

WORLD BRIEFS

Teen wounds 8 students, 1 teacher at German school

ANSBACH, Germany (AP)—An 18-year-old armed with an ax, knives and Molotov cocktails attacked his high school in southern Germany on Thursday, injuring eight pupils and a teacher before police shot and arrested him, authorities said. As the mayhem erupted on the third floor, roughly 700 other students fled the building , including some who barricaded a classroom door before running down an emergency staircase. Many took shelter in a nearby office building. The teenager entered the four-story school in Ansbach at 8:30 a.m. (0630GMT), shortly after classes started, Bavarian Interior Minister Joachim Herrmann said. He climbed to the third floor, where he lit a Molotov cocktail and threw it into an 11th grade classroom, apparently striking a girl in the head and burning several other people, authorities said.

Cuba hopes green tourism can keep it in the black

BOCA DE GUAMA, Cuba (AP)—Crocodile 0383 is too tiny to be menacing. Three weeks old and barely the length of a candy bar, the gray and brownish-yellow beast already has all 64 jagged teeth, which glint like crushed glass in the tropical sun. Yet his bites don't break the skin and a whipping from his Q-tip-sized tail only tickles. Though small, Cuba sees big potential in No. 0383, hoping he and thousands of other natural wonders can revolutionize a nascent eco-tourism industry. Amid dipping tourism revenues, the government gathered top leaders from its state-run vacation industry and European and Canadian tour operators this week for a conference aimed at boosting a segment of the market that only accounts for 4 percent of all foreign visits, according to deputy Tourism Minister Alexis Trujillo.

Tribal leader: 87 civilians killed in Yemen strike

SAN'A, Yemen (AP)—Nearly 87 civilians were killed in a strike by government warplanes that hit a camp of people fleeing fighting in northern Yemen, a tribal leader said Thursday. It was a sign of increasing bloodiness in a remote war against Shiite rebels in this turmoil-ridden Arab nation. The Yemeni government has said it is determined to stamp out the 5-year-old rebellion, despite U.S. pressure for it to do more against al-Qaida, which has been strengthening its presence in the country. Every day, warplanes screech over the ornate mud-brick skyline of San'a, the capital, to bomb the Shiite rebels in the northern region of Saada, on the border with Saudi Arabia. Some 150,000 Yemenis have fled their homes since 2004, cramming into camps, schools and barns as aid groups struggle to bring in supplies.

Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

Saturday, September 19, 2009

RP a key market for global investors—UK exec

MANILA, Philippines (INQUIRER.net)—The Philippinesranked 9th among key emerging markets for global investors in 2009, jumping 14 spots from 23rd place the previous year, according to new research published by UK Trade & Investment.

"The global recession was a wake-up call for companies to diversify their export base and seek out new opportunities in the emerging world. We are encouraging UK business to look to the Philippines and find new business in this exciting new market," British Ambassador to the Philippines Stephen Lillie said in a statement released to media outfits.

According to an embassy brief, the United Kingdom is the top net foreign direct investor in the Philippines, investing $298.17 million last year. There are currently around 200 British companies active in the Philippines, ranging from big multinationals to small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

According to the same brief, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in March this year delivered a keynote message during the Emerging Markets Summit which might have helped put the Philippines in the radar of British businessmen.

Over 300 business leaders and investors from all over the world participated in the forum, giving her the opportunity to share the Philippines' view on Asia's leadership in the global economic recovery and to promote the Philippines as an investment destination.

In that forum, Arroyo highlighted the resiliency and continued growth of the Philippine economy, which posted a 1.5 percent economic growth in the second quarter of 2009.

Addressing the Economist Intelligence Unit's Emerging Markets Summit Thursday, UK Secretary of State Lord Mandelson revealed the findings of a new report which examines global business attitudes to emerging markets in light of the global downturn.

"The report we're publishing today has a few basic messages. First, the basic conditions in the emerging economies are varied and not universal. China and India have continued to grow rapidly, although at less than the trend rate of the last decade. Other parts of the emerging world are also performing well relative to the rich world, but well below recent trend," Lord Mandelson said.

"On a more positive point, most of the 500 plus companies surveyed by the report are cautious about quick recovery but they were very positive about the long-term potential of the emerging economies," he added.

The survey found that 77 percent of companies expect the prospects for the global economy to improve in 2010-11. Sixty percent of companies surveyed expected to derive more than 20 percent of their total revenues from emerging markets in five years' time—almost double the current figure of 31 percent.

However, political risk, including the risk of nationalization and expropriation, was cited by 50 percent of survey respondents as the greatest government-related obstacle to doing business in emerging markets.

In the Philippines, local and foreign chambers highlighted the need for continued reforms despite significant progress. The chambers jointly submitted to government a list of 10 pieces of legislation which they believe will have significant positive effects on the Philippines investment climate.

Despite the economic downturn, emerging markets support global profitability. Emerging market economies, on the back of the continued high growth and market size of China and India, have outperformed those of developed countries in 2009.

Commenting on the research Lord Mandelson said, "It's clear that many British businesses have been able to hedge their recession performance thanks to a strong presence in the emerging economies. And they do see a long game in which WTO-membership and improving legal and commercial environments will make it easier to do business there. Certainly, growing and increasingly prosperous populations make these markets a huge potential source of growth and jobs."

Nephrology nurses light the way

Let's start with the guys: There's Karlo, Rey, Nel, Dandy, Darnel, Ariel, Ernie, and Jeff. The gals: Susan, Annie, Belinda, Bella, Caroline, Marissa, Amy, Vicky, Jenny, Dina, Kim, Michelle, Helen, Christine, Zeny, Nica, Ofel, the two Carmens and Riza.

You may have met them at the Sabalu market buying fresh fruits and vegetables. You may have even bumped shoulders with them along the busy Thursday Street Market or at the Tuesday Night Market.

You may have seen them as they tie their baits to their hooks while fishing at Sugar Dock or passed by them as they rode their bikes to Suicide Cliff.

Yet, like the superheroes that they are, hidden beneath their ordinary shorts and flip-flops is another uniform altogether—a mint green scrub suit—that they wear for an extraordinary job.

These are the men and women who man the hemodialysis unit of the Commonwealth Health Center, the lone government hospital of the CNMI. They serve over a hundred dialysis recipients who, without these nurses' diligent work, face life-threatening conditions.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The nephrology nurses and staff of the Nephrology Section at the Commonwealth Health Center have their picture taken as they celebrate Nephrology Nurses' Week.

This week, these extraordinary men and women take their turn in the spotlight, to be recognized for the hard work and the life-saving efforts that they do for the CNMI community.

The American Nephrology Nurses Association, ANNA, has designated Sept. 13 to 19 as Nephrology Nurses' Week with the theme "Nephrology Nurses Light The Way."

According to ANNA president Anna Bernarski, nephrology nurses touch lives everyday and make a positive difference in the lives of dialysis recipients and their families.

These nurses light the way with their continued effort to offer better services through thick or thin. They light the way with their continued dedication to this unique job. Their efficiency and willingness to operate the filter machine and care for individuals at the same time is surely worthy of appreciation and recognition—not just only for this week but for the entire year. ***(PR)***

LABOR FRONT

Communicable disease, food poisoning, cooking facilities

By FERDIE PONCE DE LA TORRE

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REPORTER

Q: Is an employer required to report if his or her alien employee is believed to have a communicable disease?

A: Yes. According to Labor, the employer shall report to the Division of Health Services the name and address of any foreign national worker known to have or is suspected of having a communicable disease.

Employers should also provide adequate first aid supplies at the living site for the emergency treatment of injured persons.

■ ■ ■ ■

Q: What should an employer do if a food poisoning case occurs at the barracks of his or her alien workers?

A: According to Labor's requirements for employers, the employer should report to the Division of Health Services and Safety Section any case of food poisoning or unusual prevalence of any illness in which fever, diarrhea, sore throat, or vomiting is a prominent symptom.

■ ■ ■ ■

Q: Are employers required to provide cooking facilities for foreign workers?

A: Labor states that cooking facilities are to be given wherever workers are provided common living quarters. Cooking facilities should be in an enclosed and screened shelter. The food should be stored safe from contamination by water, dirt, poisonous substances, rats, flies, or other vermin.

Refrigeration facilities should also be provided for storage of perishable food. Facilities should be adequate for ensuring sanitary maintenance of eating and cooking utensils.

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21 maltreated OFWs repatriated from Libya

MANILA, Philippines—Twenty-one overseas Filipino workers repatriated from Libya arrived at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport on Thursday.

The workers were among the 35 who ran away from their jobs in the Libyan capital Tripoli after their employers allegedly failed to comply with the terms of their contracts and made them work in poor conditions.

They arrived on board Qatar Airways Flight QR-646 at around 1:30 p.m.

The repatriation was facilitated by the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, which shouldered the plane fares of the OFWs, subject to the reimbursement by their recruitment agency Aquagem International Manpower.

OWWA also provided temporary accommodation at the OWWA halfway house in Pasay City as well as travel fares for the OFWs bound for the provinces.

The 35 OFWs who sought refuge at the Philippine Overseas Labor Office in Libya said their employer made them sign new contracts upon their arrival. Worse, their employer deployed them to the port of Benghazi, which was quite far from Tripoli.

At their new work site, they were not given their promised salary and they experienced poor working conditions such as lack of food and water, and violations to their privacy. The POLO head, labor attaché Nasser Mustafa, conducted a series of dialogues with the 35 as well as the more than 100 of their fellow Filipino workers who had also complained of similar problems.

Many workers were eventually absorbed by other companies but the 35 decided to return to the Philippines. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

4 alleged kidnappers killed; victim rescued

By DJ YAP
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Four men who kidnapped a 27-year-old businessman were killed in an encounter with police operatives who successfully rescued the captive early Friday morning, police said.

Senior Superintendent Ireneo Dordas, chief of the Rizal police, identified the victim as Orson Tan, who was abducted by four to five heavily armed men on Gen. Luis Street in Caloocan City Thursday.

The slain men remained unidentified. "The investigation is still ongoing. We don't know yet what syndicate they belong to," Dordas said.

At about 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Tan was driving a Toyota Innova, with plate number ZCX-702, when the group blocked him with their own vehicle and at gunpoint took him to a subdivision in Cainta town, Dordas said.

The family reported the abduction to the police, who immediately formed a team to rescue the victim, Dordas said.

Acting on a tip by informants, members of the Rizal police and the Police Anti-Crime Emergency Response (Pacer) tracked the group down to their hideout, where a shoot-out ensued.

One of the alleged kidnappers died on the spot, while another died on the way to the hospital, Dordas said.

The others managed to escape, but the team caught up to them on the Manila East Road in Taytay and killed two more of the alleged kidnappers, Dordas said.

Tan was recovered safe and was taken to Camp Crame. Dordas said it was not yet clear if there had been a ransom demand before the rescue operation and that Pacer would lead the investigation.

Estrada sues tycoon, newspaper for alleged libel

By BEVERLY T. NATIVIDAD
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Joseph Estrada Thursday filed a libel suit against tycoon Alfonso Yuchengco and the Philippine Daily Inquirer, singling out the newspaper for its report about the businessman confirming a senator's exposé that the deposed President had bullied Yuchengco into selling his stake in a firm that controlled Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT).

Yuchengco's sale in 1998 of his stake in Philippine Telecommunications Investment Corp. (PTIC), the biggest shareholder in PLDT, allowed Manuel V. Pangilinan's group, the Hong Kong-based First Pacific Co., to gain control of the country's biggest telecommunications firm.

Flanked by his son, San Juan Mayor Joseph Victor "JV" Ejercito, and his lawyers, Estrada, who was ousted in January 2001, filed the libel suit against Yuchengco, Inquirer publisher Isagani Yambot, editor in chief Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc, and reporters Daxim Lucas, Christine Avendaño and Doris Dumlao.

AP

Ousted Philippine President Joseph Estrada, center, walks with his son, Mayor JV Ejercito, right, as he holds documents of the libel case which he is about to file in San Juan city, east of Manila, Philippines on Thursday Sept. 17, 2009, against Alfonso Yuchengco, one of the Philippines' richest businessmen, and the Philippine Daily Inquirer for allegations he coerced the tycoon into selling shares in the country's biggest telecommunications company.

The former President filed the case at the office of San Juan City Prosecutor Tomas T. Ricalde.

In his complaint, Estrada cited the Inquirer's Sept. 16 banner story, "Erap bullied me, says Yuchengco—Taipan confirms coercion in PLDT deal," which carried Yuchengco's statement confirming how the then president threatened and intimidated him into selling his holdings in PTIC to First Pacific.

Estrada said Yuchengco's statements against him were mere "fabrications."

"I vehemently deny having committed any unlawful or criminal act against respondent Yuchengco or the members of his family in relation to the sale made by respondent Yuchengco of his PTIC/PLDT shares in favor of First Pacific," the complaint said.

Yuchengco statement

The Inquirer report partly read: "In a statement disseminated via e-mail on Sept. 15, Yuchengco, chair of the Yuchengco group of companies, attested to the accuracy of Sen. Panfilo Lacson's statements on the circumstances surrounding the controversial takeover of PLDT in 1998 by First Pacific.

"I confirm the statements made by Sen. Panfilo Lacson in his privilege speech relating to my 7.75-percent PTIC holdings, equivalent to 2,017,650 PLDT common shares," the newspaper quoted Yuchengco as saying in his press statement.

"These shares were taken from me in 1998 through sheer intimidation and serious threat to my businesses, myself and my family," Yuchengco's statement added.

PTIC at the time held the biggest single block at 21 percent of the telephone giant.

Yuchengco also claimed in the book "To Leave a Good Name: The Legacy of Alfonso T. Yuchengco" (2005) that Albert del Rosario, the Philippine ambassador to the United States from 1998 to 2006, visited him in 1998, along with 10 men armed with rifles, to threaten him so he would give up his stake in PTIC.

Mancao: General offered money if he pins Ping

By TINA SANTOS
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Former Senior Supt. Cezar Mancao II Thursday testified at the Manila Regional Trial Court that he was offered financial support and relocation abroad by an official of the Arroyo administration in exchange for fabricated statements against Sen. Panfilo Lacson in connection with the Dacer-Corbito double murder case.

Mancao made the claim during the same hearing where Judge Myra Garcia Fernandez affirmed a Supreme Court decision dated Oct. 5, 2005, ordering the dropping of former Supt. Glenn Dumlao—also an ex-member of the now-defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF)—from the list of accused in the case in order to become a witness.

As has been the practice in Judge Fernandez's court, journalists were barred from covering the hearing on her orders.

Mancao made the statement in response to a question posed by the defense panel during cross-examination at the hearing of the case involving the 2000 abduction and murder of publicist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his driver Emmanuel Corbito.

Offer rejected

"He admitted in court that sometime in September 2007, while he was still in the United States, he received a call from a man who identified himself as General Prestoza, who was then the Presidential Security Group commander," said Mancao's lawyer Ferdinand Topacio.

"He said the caller offered him and his family financial support, relocation in Singapore and education support for his children in exchange for false statements against Senator Lacson," Topacio said.

"But he refused those offers," Topacio quickly said, adding that the offer had nothing to do with Mancao's February 2009 affidavit where he named ranking government officials, including Lacson, as among those behind Operation Delta, the purported plan to neutralize Dacer.

Lakas-Kampi merger row imperils Teodoro bid

By KRISTINE L. ALAVE
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Questions on the legality of the merger of the Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats and the Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi) parties could cost their standard-bearer, Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro, the election next year.

Pangasinan Rep. Jose C. de Venecia, a former president of Lakas-CMD, insisted Thursday the merger of the two administration parties was illegal, not having been ratified by a Lakas-CMD national assembly.

He said those who pushed the merger would rue the day they came together as it would hound Teodoro's candidacy.

He said the Lakas-Kampi-CMD executive meeting on Wednesday that picked Teodoro was "illegal, it was a phantom meeting."

De Venecia talked to the media after he and Lakas-CMD chair Gabriel Claudio testified at a two-hour hearing at the Comelec Thursday.

The hearing was held on the new Lakas-Kampi-CMD's application for accreditation as a political party.

PHILIPPINE BRIEFS

Theme park rising in Tagum

TAGUM CITY—An eco-tourism park patterned after the Windows of the World theme park in China is being developed in a semi-forested area here by the city government. Covering 48 hectares, the Windows of the World in the industrial city of Shenzhen is known for its replicas of over a hundred world landmarks. Cromwell Bonghanoy, city information officer, said the "premier eco-tourism destination" was being built over a 65-hectare area in Barangay (village) San Agustin. Bonghanoy said clearing operations have already started in at least 10 hectares of the park, which is about five kilometers from the city center. "The eco-tourism park will feature cable car rides and restaurants overlooking a vast expanse of lush trees," he said. Bonghanoy said the idea came following Mayor Rey Uy's visit to China early this year. *(Inquirer Mindanao)*

Witness links Ruby Rose slay to drug deals

MANILA, Philippines—An employee of Navotas fishing magnate Lope Jimenez who is wanted for the murder of Ruby Rose Barrameda-Jimenez Thursday claimed the victim was likely killed by state witness Manuel Montero due to illegal drug dealings. Eddie Abiog, who has been working for Jimenez's Buena Suerte Jimenez Fishing and Trading Co. as driver since 1995, was presented to the media Thursday by Jimenez's lawyer Ferdinand Topacio. In a sworn statement he submitted to the Department of Justice panel of prosecutors as one of the witnesses for Jimenez's defense, Abiog claimed he served as a go-between for Montero whenever he buys illegal drugs from Ruby Rose. *(Philippine Daily Inquirer)*

Dumlao points to Erap as Dacer slay 'brains'

MANILA, Philippines—Former Supt. Glenn Dumlao, one of the accused in the 2000 Dacer-Corbito case, said he was convinced it was former President Joseph Estrada who gave direct orders to neutralize publicist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer. "I am morally convinced that Estrada was the one who ordered the Dacer operations," one of his lawyers, Morel Callueng, quoted Dumlao as saying. Asked if Estrada directly ordered the killing of Dacer, Callueng said: "When you say neutralize, in military parlance, that is killing. Col. Dumlao believes that Estrada gave the orders as far as the total operations on Dacer—the Operation Delta—was concerned." *(Philippine Daily Inquirer)*

Bicol train chugs to a halt in test run

NAGA CITY—The spirit was willing, but the diesel-fed old engines were not. After stopping several times for repairs, a refurbished Philippine National Railways (PNR) train on a test run from Tagkawayan town in Quezon province made it an hour late into Naga City in Camarines Sur on Wednesday. But before the new Bicol Commuter Train, a takeoff from the Bicol Express of yesteryear, could move any farther to its final destination in Ligao City in Albay, its engines had conked out. PNR officials had earlier expressed confidence that train services in Bicol would resume after three years in time for the Feast of Our Lady of Peñafrancia this week in Naga. *(Philippine Daily Inquirer)*

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'One year of hell' for displaced in Mindanao

DATU PIANG (AFP)—Sweat covers the sinewy arms of Salik Usman as he patiently weaves palm fronds to patch a leaking tent that has served as his family's home for more than a year.

Usman, a Muslim, looks older than his 47 years, with deep creases on his face.

He blames a slight facial twitch on frazzled nerves that have not calmed since August last year, when he, his 11 children and wife barely escaped a hail of rocket-propelled grenades fired by Muslim separatist rebels who carved a deadly trail across the Philippines' southern Mindanao island.

"It was early in the morning when the explosions began. We ran and ran, leaving behind everything until we reached this place," he said, looking around the muddy evacuation centre where about 3,000 people live in rundown shelters cobbled together from scrap metal, dirty tarpaulins and cardboard.

"The last thing I saw was my house being hit, and burning, and my carabao [farm buffalo] scampering away. The fighting has robbed me of everything."

His youngest son, only a year old, died at the evacuation center about a month into the ordeal. He simply refused to eat, and withered away.

"He was war-shocked," said Usman.

Usman and his family were among the 750,000 Muslims and Christians who were forced to flee their homes because of the fighting between the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and government forces.

The 12,000-strong MILF has been waging a rebellion for an independent Islamic state across the fertile farming region of Mindanao since 1978.

The rebels broke a five-year ceasefire in August last year and launched attacks across Mindanao after the Supreme Court rejected a proposed land deal that would have given them control over what they say is their ancestral land.

While many people have returned to their homes to try to rebuild their lives, more than 250,000 remain in evacuation shelters or are staying with their relatives, according to the government.

Although the government and the MILF instituted another ceasefire in July, and look likely to resume peace talks soon, the displaced people of Mindanao remain deeply uncertain of their future.

Surrounding fields are overrun by weeds and littered with debris, there are no jobs and almost everyone relies on government or charity handouts that they say are becoming scarcer every day.

Some semblance of order has been established with the help of aid agencies, including the setting up of one-room schools, and vocational training for adults.

Scenes of destruction and tense security, however, remain bitter reminders for the desperate villagers.

Along the desolate stretch of highway cutting through a marshland of central Mindanao that for years has been the MILF's sanctuary, chickens roost in blackened structures that once were houses but were destroyed in battle.

Military roadblocks check vehicles passing through, while armored personnel vehicles constantly prowl, adding to the garrison atmosphere.

For Rakhma Colot, 31, a Muslim woman who became pregnant with her fifth child at the evacuation camp, life is a daily struggle to feed her children.

"This has been one year of hell for us," she said.

Colot said her husband, a Christian named Bobby, earned about $2 on a good day driving people around the center in his tricycle, and there have been many times when their children went to sleep hungry.

She said they have had to use muddy water to wash clothes and bathe. Their toilet is a hole shielded by grain sacks tied to sticks.

"We just pretend no one is watching."

Colot said she welcomed the news that the MILF and the government had agreed to talk peace again.

"But can they assure us that the guns will stop?" she asked.

"And our house is gone. While we want to return to our farm, what will we use to start over again?"

INSTANT UMBRELLAS AP

Riot police officers use their shields from a sudden downpour as protesters, unseen, hold a rally near the U.S. Embassy in Manila Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2009 to coincide with the 20th anniversary of the abrogation of the U.S. Bases Treaty with the Philippines and to protest the continued presence of U.S. troops in the country through the Visiting Forces Agreement, or VFA. The U.S. troops are currently stationed in southern Philippines to help the Philippine military in its fight against terrorism in the wake of terrorist attacks on U.S. soil in Sept .11, 2001.

Dollar recovers some ground in Asia

TOKYO (AFP)—The dollar rebounded in Asian trade on Friday as investors took profits from the euro and the yen's recent advances to multi-month highs against the greenback.

The dollar gained to 91.20 yen in Tokyo morning trade from 91.03 in New York late Thursday. The greenback hit a seven-month low of 90.16 on Wednesday after Japan's new finance minister indicated tolerance for a strong currency.

The euro fell to $1.4725 from 1.4740 late on Thursday, when it had earlier struck 1.4767 – the highest level in almost one year. The euro gained to 134.30 yen from 134.17.

Investors were awaiting fresh leads after mixed US data, weak British economic figures, and disappointment among some traders that the Swiss central bank shied from intervening in markets to prop up its currency, analysts said.

"It is a very quiet day ahead data wise" with traders focused on figures on the British public finances, NAB Capital strategist David de Garis wrote in a note to clients.

The state of Britain's public coffers has dramatically deteriorated due to the financial crisis, and the economy has yet to see many signs of recovery, unlike a number of other major nations, dealers noted.

The Institute of Fiscal Studies said Britain is facing its tightest fiscal squeeze in decades.

British media said leaked papers from Britain's Treasury revealed that government spending would be cut by a total of 9.3 percent between 2010 and 2014. Sterling fell to 1.6429 from 1.6445.

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TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR MONEY

WWII veteran asks where to invest money

Editor's Note: This is part of Take Charge of Your Money, a partnership between INQUIRER.net and Citibank to help readers handle their personal finances well.

Question: My father is a veteran of World War II. He is anticipating receiving from the US government soon his compensation for his services during the war. This will amount to $9,000. We want him to keep the money so that he will have something to use when he gets sick. Where can we advise him to put his money so that it will earn for the meantime?—Rachel

Answer: Better late than never—this is what many World War II veterans from the Philippines have said regarding their long overdue compensation from the US government. They fought alongside American soldiers against the Japanese during WW II and have been promised benefits. Now, more than half a century later, the surviving veterans will finally be receiving what is due them.

It is good that your family feels your father should keep the money for his needs. At his age (in his 80s, most probably), he most likely does not have income coming in regularly anymore. And although his daily living expenses may be lower, health care costs may be higher since this is the time when illnesses crop up.

We don't know how many more years your father has on earth. He may live to a ripe old age of 100 or more, or leave earth sooner. That lump sum payment he will receive should then be preserved as much as possible so it can last long enough to meet his needs. In the book 'The Citibank Guide to Building Personal Wealth,' it says: "Protecting your capital from loss becomes more important than ever before, because you cannot be certain how long you will live. If you live until you are 100, you will need your capital to last that long at least." This calls for a conservative strategy in investment.

Here are some options available to your father on where he can put his money:

1. Savings account: It's safe to keep money in a savings account, but interest rate will be quite low. Still, it's better than hiding money in one's closet or under the bed. We suggest that some of your father's money be kept in a high-yielding savings account so it can be easily withdrawn within 24 hours should an emergency arise. Make a survey among the banks in your area to see what interest rates they offer. Choose a stable bank for your peace of mind.

2. Time deposit: Money kept in a time deposit means the money will be locked up in the bank for an agreed upon term (e.g., 30 days, 90 days or more). In return, the bank will offer a higher interest rate than that offered by savings accounts. Keep some of your father's money here too so it will earn a little bit more. And as with savings accounts, ask around among the banks for time deposit rates. The smaller banks may give higher rates, but you may be more at peace having the bigger banks take care of your money for you.

3. Treasury bills: These are short-term government securities, and as such, can be less risky—meaning, the government guarantees that it will pay the investor the face amount of the Treasury bill at maturity date. Interest, which is subject to 20 percent withholding tax, will be credited to the investor's bank account on a pre-determined schedule. The interest earned may be higher than what time deposits offer, so consider putting more money here than in time deposits. You may inquire about this from your bank.

There are other investment products that yield a bit more but comes with some risk:

4. Money market fund: This is a fund pooled among investors and the money is invested in a combination of short-term government securities and corporate papers maturing within a year. The rate may be higher than a time deposit. It may be offered as mutual fund (run by finance companies) or unit investment trust fund or UITF (run by banks), and you may be charged a certain amount for fund fees. There is some risk involved and you could lose your principal. Interest is subject to withholding tax.

5. Fixed income fund: This is also a pooled fund run as mutual fund or UITF. However, the money is invested in a combination of short-term and long-term fixed income securities. Again, it comes with risk and you could lose your principal. Interest is also subject to withholding tax and fund fees.

6. Bond fund: Like the money market fund and fixed income fund, the bond fund is a pooled fund available as a mutual fund or UITF. The money pooled from investors will be invested in bonds, which carry risk. You may be able to earn money more than what other forms of investment may give you, but you may also see your capital lose in value should the market be down. You will be charged a certain amount for fund fees, and interest is subject to withholding tax.

We will not recommend investing in stocks given your father's age. He may not have enough time to ride out market fluctuations, so it is best to stick to investments that will preserve his capital.

There are also other places he can put his money in: a business, jewelry, fine art, car, property or any other asset. However, bear in mind that a business carries with it a higher amount of risk as compared to the investment funds mentioned above. As for jewelry, fine art, cars, property, or other assets, it may be difficult to convert these to cash should emergencies arise.

All prudent investors have a diverse investment portfolio. They don't put their money in one basket or one form of investment. The same should be done by your father. Don't let him put the entire $9,000 in a savings account, or in property, or in one type of investment fund. Spread the capital so the risk is also spread among different asset classes. In that way, should one asset be down (e.g., bond fund), the gains from the other forms of investment may possibly help cover some of the loss that may be incurred. However, you will also need to consider the fees that may be incurred in investing in these various forms of investments.

Study all options carefully and discuss it with your father. Advise your father to keep all investment and legal documents in a safe place.

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Maharlika – PinoyStyle

Ogie's favorite Michael V anecdote

By DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Ogie Alcasid and Michael V's wacky "Loser Yaya and Naughty Angelina" tandem is too funny to be confined to TV. It comes to the big screen via "Yaya and Angelina: The Spoiled Brat Movie," which opens September 23. On TV, Yaya sticks it out with Angelina. In the movie, Yaya gets fed up and leaves her "alaga's" home.

What is Ogie's fave yaya memory? "I used to cry every time my yaya would go on her day-off. I was so attached to her."

Does he spoil his kids to make up for lost time with them since they live in Australia? "I think most parents spoil their kids. I am really guilty of that. But as they grow up, I try to instill in them the value of hard work."

What's his most unforgettable moment with Michael V? "Every time I'm with him is memorable. But if I had to pick one, it would be the time I was a judge in a rap contest in 'Eat Bulaga' when Bitoy was starting out and he lost because I gave him a low score."

The comic duo take their characters to heart, which is why in their show "Hole in the Wall," they talk a la Yaya and Angelina even off-cam. The "spoiled brat" portrayal of Ogie will never rot.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Ogie Alcasid and Michael V team up for the big screen in "Yaya and Angelina: The Spoiled Brat Movie," which opens Sept. 23.

Long distance affair

En route to Iloilo, I bumped into Katya Santos, who was Laoag-bound, at the airport. Her "significant other" who comes from a prominent Ilocano clan is based there.

Long distance love affairs are never easy. But from the looks of it, Katya seems to have gotten used to the set-up.

Chin-Chin Gutierrez and I were on the same flight. I asked her if she has fully recovered from the double whammy of losing her mom and her home in one sweep. "Slowly," she said with a faint smile. Not even the worst of tragedies has diminished Chin-Chin's beauty. Her mom named her after a colloquial term for "Cheers!" No wonder she manages to celebrate life not only because, but also despite of.

Quotable quotes

I immensely enjoy doing one-on-one interviews with celebrities on my daily cable TV show, "Stop, Talk & Listen" with Ogie Diaz and Maui Taylor (6 p.m. on Cignal TV's Viva Cinema Channel with replays at 6 a.m. and 12 midnight). Here are some quotable quotes from my "Chikadora" segment:

Ruffa Mae Quinto: "I tried living on my own but I missed my family so I bought my lola's house and we are all back under one roof. Feels good to be back to my roots so I can grow and bloom even more."

Eugene Domingo: "I want to be remembered as someone na masarap katrabaho."

Gabby Concepcion: "Sometimes I wish I never left the Philippines. But the warm welcome I got when I returned home after being out of the scene for so long tells me that all my sacrifices in the United States are worth it."

Cesar Montano: "Mahirap magkapamilya. Masalimuot man minsan, kailangan ito ng bawa't lalaki para magkasaysay ang buhay niya."

Marvin Agustin: "Before it was always me, me, me in my relationships. I've reached a point where I have more to give of myself. I'm ready for my Miss Right. If she comes tomorrow, I'll marry her right away."

Ai Ai de las Alas: "When I had my house built, there were days I didn't know where I would get enough money to continue building it. Lakasan lang talaga ng loob. 'Di mo malalaman kung ano ang kaya mo hangga't di mo i-dare ang sarili mo."

Marriage as adventure

One of my fave celebrity couples, Cesar Montano and Sunshine Cruz, with whom I share an "un-show biz" friendship, just celebrated their ninth anniversary. Name it, they've been through it together.

"Marriage is the greatest adventure," Buboy says. "Trials make our relationship stronger because it spices things up. Boring naman if things are always smooth. What's important is, after every misunderstanding, we learn to love and understand each other more."

Buboy's heart can't be happier with the way things are going in his marriage and career. He's all agog over the Visayan movie he's directing and his socio-civic projects in his hometown Bohol.

"The movie is about Dagohoy, short for Dagon sa Hoyohoy, which means 'amulet of the wind.'" he explains. "Dagohoy was believed to have an anting-anting that made him fly. That's why the Spaniards never caught him during the longest revolt in the Philippines."

Marine creatures must also be revolting so Buboy is out to save them. "The sea reefs in Bohol have been damaged due to illegal fishing. We are going to make artificial fish houses molded in used palanggana. In two to five years, corals will be full grown again and the fishes will start to come back."

Amid his busy sked, has he ever pondered what the best part of being Cesar Montano is? "I must say it's that I'm still the same old Buboy na nakikipaglokohan sa barkada sa Sta. Ana at makasama mag-jamming sa tabing dagat sa Baclayon while drinking tuba. At the best na mag-gitara."

No snubbing

Rhian Ramos shrugs off rumors that she and Marian Rivera recently snubbed each other because of Dingdong Dantes. "I don't know why some people insist that such a thing happened," she clarifies. "Nabeso ko naman lahat, including her."

How is Dong as leading man in "Stairway to Heaven"? "I love how serious he is about his craft," she says. "I have great respect for him." Does she also respect what Dong and Marian have? "Of course." she quips. "I'll just do my work as his leading lady."

What's the hardest part of playing Jodi in GMA 7's Pinoy adaptation of the well-loved Koreanovela? "The tough part is that lots of things on TV don't happen in real life," she says. "The challenge is in finding real emotion in outrageous situations." Rhian stays gorgeous even when intrigues turn outrageous.

Rhian Ramos shrugs off rumors that she and Marian Rivera recently snubbed each other because of Dingdong Dantes.

Diet's wedding plans

Diether Ocampo told me that he and his fab GF Rima have wedding plans but that they're not taking the plunge anytime soon. He's still very much married to his K.I.D.S Foundation. "I'm happy that it's been recognized by the Department of Education for its work with the youth," he says. If and when Diet and Rima get hitched, he will surely make a great dad, after all his practice with his many foundation "babies."

Online TV show

Hot Mama Tin-Tin Bersola-Babao sent me an update on her online TV show:

"Hi Dolly,

"Happy to tell you that www.parentin.tv, the first Philippine online parenting show of which I am creative director and host since its launch last July, has garnered 470 thousand hits. My website is unique because: 1) It is an online parenting show; 2) It has interactive web content; and 3) It has onground events to touch base with my parenting community.

"This is my life's vision, and now I am happily living it. I am so thankful because I succeeded in tapping the niche market—parents like me. And the success comes as part of the triple blessing in my life now: I am on my sixth month of pregnancy and we already found out that it is a boy this time!"

Lucy would like 3 sons

By BAYANI SAN DIEGO JR.
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—The recent guesting of three young go-kart champs on the QTV gab fest "Sweet Life" prompted host Lucy Torres-Gomez to quip, "How I wish I had three boys of my own."

She confides to Inquirer Entertainment in an exclusive interview: "Those three boys were really cute. I'd love to have three makulit [active] little boys at home."

She jests that hubby Richard is "my eldest." Their firstborn, Juliana, is now 8.

Admittedly, she has her hands full with the two. "Like her dad, Juliana is a natural at sports," Lucy relates. "She plays baseball and soccer, runs with her dad and dances with me. Richard says sports is the easiest way to teach discipline to a child. I agree."

Learning to cook

All that sweating has allowed Juliana to slim down a bit, Lucy notes. "But she also has a healthy appetite. Richard is forever cooking. Juliana and I bake cupcakes together."

The Gomezes recently appeared in an advertisement for Birch Tree milk. "I make sure Juliana enjoys her childhood," Lucy says. "Modeling is just something she can do on the side. We are very careful about the products she endorses."

The entire family are milk drinkers, she says. "When I was growing up, we could have soda only weekends, but every day we had milk. Richard's Lola Lydia always had a pitcher of milk in the fridge when he was a boy."

Nat'l Artist awards can't be undone, says SolGen

By NORMAN BORDADORA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—The conferment of National Artist awards on four controversial nominees inserted by Malacañang may no longer be undone, according to Solicitor General Agnes Devanadera.

In a lengthy comment, Devanadera sought the dismissal of the petition for prohibition filed by national artists and members of the academe against the recognition of National Commission on Culture and the Arts executive Cecile Alvarez, filmmaker Carlo J. Caparas, fashion designer Jose Moreno and architect Francisco Mañosa as national artists.

The four were conferred the awards although they were not nominated by the NCCA and the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Devanadera issued the comment in reply to the petition filed against the holding of awarding ceremonies and the release of the cash prizes to the four questioned awardees.

The petition was filed by national artists led by poet Virgilio Almario, who questioned the process by which Malacañang's choices were named national artists.

"The issues raised in the petition are clearly moot and academic as private respondents have been declared national artists. No amount of melodramatic protests shall overturn this fact," Devanadera said.

"The present petition is one for prohibition which is a preventive remedy. The act sought to be enjoined having taken place already, there is nothing more to restrain," the solicitor general added.

Devanadera, the concurrent acting justice secretary, argued that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has already issued presidential proclamations recognizing Malacañang's choices as national artists.

She argued that even Fernando Poe Jr., remains a national artist by virtue of a presidential proclamation even after his family refused to attend the awarding rites to get the national artists medal.

Apart from Caparas, Alvarez, Moreno and Mañosa, Malacañang also conferred the title of national artist on NCCA-CCP nominees Manuel Conde for film, Federico Alcuaz for visual arts and Lazaro Francisco for literature.

A fourth NCCA-CCP nominee, composer Ramon Santos, was not given the award although he hurdled the NCCA-CCP selection process.

The petitioners questioned the naming of Alvarez as national artist because she was disqualified from consideration because of her position in the NCCA.

Caparas, Moreno and Mañosa, on the other hand, did not pass the rigorous screening and selection process of the NCCA-CCP.

Devanadera said that conferment of the national artist title is the exclusive prerogative of the President.

"(To) sustain petitioners' argument that the President cannot grant the award to someone nor recommended by the NCCA-CCP Boards would be a patent disregard of the President powers," Devanadera said.

Maharlika – Opinyon

A winning issue

Capitalizing on the vast reservoir of public goodwill left by his parents, President Corazon Aquino and the martyred Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr., Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" III launched on Wednesday his campaign for the presidency in the May 2010 election on the note of providing the country an honest and decent government.

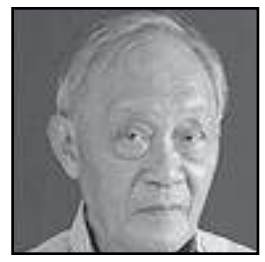
Noynoy announced his presidential bid in a theater full of symbolism: at the end of 40 days of national mourning for the death of President Aquino and at historic Club Filipino, where she took her oath of office in February 1986 after leading the People Power revolution that toppled the 14-year dictatorship of President Ferdinand Marcos. Noynoy launched his candidacy amid heightening public revulsion over corruption in public office and abuse of power.

At his launch, Noynoy captured the public mood clamoring for change and highlighted corruption as the defining issue in the 2010 election. He seized it as the issue around which to mobilize public support. In his brief statement, he announced that he would enter the 2010 presidential race to continue the work of his mother who played a crucial role in ending the Marcos dictatorship and in running an honest and transparent government.

"I accept the plea of the people," Noynoy said. "I accept the advice of my parents... I accept the responsibility to continue the fight for the people. I accept the challenge to lead in this fight. I will run in the coming elections."

Vowing to fight corruption, he vowed to be a leader for all sectors of society and not just the rich. "I will be there because of the people. I will stay there because of the people and hopefully I will be true to my word to serve the people. I want to make democracy work not just for the rich and the well-connected but for everybody."

Noynoy revealed that he only began seriously considering a presidential bid after seeing the massive outpouring of support for his family. He called on Filipinos to recall his mother's achievements when they consider who they want to be their next president. "During my mother's time, she was not corrupt," he pointed out. "Even the policeman on the street had second thoughts about being corrupt."



Analysis
By AMANDO DORONILA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Noynoy's statement fell short of being a proclamation of political and economic and social policies, but it served the purpose of defining the keynote of his administration. The declaration had a perceptibly electrifying impact, lifting hopes that among a dozen or so presidential aspirants, he stood as a credible leader who could translate the clamor for honest government into action.

Giving an indication of one direction or priority of his government, Noynoy said that recovering the ill-gotten wealth of the family of the late President Marcos would be one of the things he would push should he be elected president.

There were few signs that his announcement has sparked a spontaneous combustion of popular support that would give momentum to his campaign. There were even fewer signs that his rivals in the crowded opposition camp would fold their tents to make way for him and join his banner as the opposition's presidential candidate. Enthusiastic response to his call for an honest government was most marked in the business community. Makati Business Club executive director Alberto Lim said Aquino "can be a positive force for good governance." And he added: "Although I cannot speak for anyone, we hope he'll be a viable alternative. He has no record of corruption, so that's good for us."

Edgardo Lacson, president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said Aquino's decision to run was a "welcome development" not only for the business community but for the country as well.

At no time since Defense Secretary Ramon Magsaysay ran for president against President Elpidio Quirino in 1952 has corruption been highlighted as the main issue in a presidential election. The Quirino administration was rocked by corruption scandals, and Magsaysay mounted a challenge on a platform of clean and honest government. Magsaysay who gained popularity on the solid achievement of breaking the backbone of the communist Huk rebellion emerged as a savior of democracy against the communist threat and stood as the white hope to end corruption and as an epitome of clean and honest government.

Noynoy has no spectacular or outstanding legislative record to boost his presidential bid. The strongest platform of his candidacy rests on his honesty and the magic of the Aquino family's legacy of public service. Among the declared presidential aspirants, he appears to have the most credible credentials as an agent of reform and honest government.

The opposition is cursed by the fact that it is overcrowded by presidential pretenders as it faces a powerful administration political machine made up of the merged Lakas-CMD and Kampi parties. Although this machine faces threats of breaking up following the withdrawal of the Ramos-De Venecia faction of Lakas from the coalition, it remains a formidable machine with a nationwide network well-funded by the administration's patronage resources.

The Liberal Party, although unified under Noynoy, has to attract the support of the other opposition parties behind his banner to mount a credible challenge to the administration's machine. In the next few weeks, his leadership mettle as the rallying point of the opposition will be put to the test. But he has seized a winning issue in his anti-corruption and clean and honest government theme. He must press on with it. None of his rivals can use it.

EDITORIAL

Worst case

For a democracy to achieve a consensus worthy of its name, it must make space for practical optimism. While criticism of conditions and consequences is important, a calm, reasoned setting-forth of options, generous with possibility, is vital. Former Commission on Elections Chair Christian Monsod's commentary the other day is one such contribution to the public discourse.

Monsod, an election reform advocate of long standing, proposes that we look at concerns about a possible failure of elections from the right perspective. He begins by making explicit the core assumption held by both the Comelec, in arguing it can conduct a fully automated election come May, and the Supreme Court, in upholding the automation contract as valid. In other words, he wants the public to realize that the possibility of a total failure of elections has been already considered by two collegial bodies, which subsequently found "the likelihood of that scenario happening practically nil."

Practically nil is not the same thing as absolute zero—as Monsod takes pains to point out. But total failure would require a convergence of three near-impossible conditions: "a failure of technology, a failure of logistics and non-acceptance by the voters and candidates of any results."

He also recognizes (rightly) that the Senate is a continuing institution, and credits all senators, "both opposition and administration, with the sense and patriotism to make sure no vacuum happens."

He also reads history much as former President Fidel V. Ramos does, seeing in the full flourish of People Power a guarantee that, when sufficiently provoked, the people can act to limit even absolute power. "History shows that when the people really want something, our leaders somehow listen."

It must be said, however, that Monsod reserves his practical optimism most for the institution he used to head. "In the first place, the Comelec does have what it calls a manual back-up system if, for any reason, the machines do not work or fail to produce results." He also points out that: "We can safely assume that the Comelec will provide the legal forms for such a contingency [failure of elections in specific areas]." He ends, after noting the gravity of what he calls the "technology risk" and the "logistics risk," by concluding that "if things are not proceeding well by end-November, the Comelec can surely be persuaded to shift to its back-up option to make sure the elections are held on schedule with credible results."

Does the Comelec deserve this praise?

We continue to hold Chairman Jose Melo in high regard, and credit the Comelec with doing as much as it can to recover from the trauma of the Abalos years. But we share Monsod's reasonable insistence that it is our bounden duty, all of us, to keep a close watch on the commission, to help it in its work (such as youth organizations helping spread the word about voter registration for first-time voters) and to raise warning signs when the prospect of a vulnerability in the system appears (such as the need to share the source code with a greater pool of IT experts).

The point is: we must focus on what can be done.

© Philippine Daily Inquirer

Marco's manuscript

Jose E. Marco is a name familiar to Filipino historians who know him as the source of a number of forgeries that have crept into Philippine history and historiography. This little man from Negros had a career that spanned close to half a century, and his handiwork is still in some textbooks today. The most famous of his hoaxes are: the so-called "Code of Kalantiaw" then believed to have been promulgated in Aklan in 1433 and "La Loba Negra" a novel then attributed to Jose A. Burgos, the principal martyr of 1872 who, with Fathers Gomez and Zamora, are better known by schoolchildren under the acronym "Gomburza."

One would believe that these forgeries and any ideas that emanate from them would be deleted from our textbooks and classrooms, but you will be surprised that legends die hard. There are people who maintain the work of Marco to be authentic.

Looking Back
By AMBETH OCAMPO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Marco started his career in 1912 when he donated three "pre-Spanish" documents to the National Library. It seems that he was introduced by or later cultivated the friendship of the historian Manuel Artigas y Cuerva who was then working in the Filipiniana section of the library. These documents were considered "national treasures" and lovingly conserved in the library together with original handwritten manuscripts by Jose Rizal. It is unfortunate that these "pre-Spanish" documents did not survive the looting and destruction during the war because closer inspection today would prove beyond doubt that they were forgeries.

Many of the treasures of the National Library were kept in different vaults, some in the library itself in the old Congress building, some in the nearby Manila City Hall. After the war, the library vaults were found to have been forcibly opened, their contents gone, but in the spirit of nationalism most, if not all, of the Rizal manuscripts were returned to the library. The other papers were destroyed or have yet to find their way back some day. All that remains for historians is a description of one of these documents described as being written on tree bark with cuttlefish ink.

Future National Artist N.V.M Gonzalez wrote an article on the treasures of the library in the 1930s that came with a faded photograph of this bark manuscript described in the Bulletin of the Philippine Library in September 1913:

"Those of first importance historically are three manuscripts written in the old Visayan characters on bonga bark. These constitute the greatest literary find ever made in the Philippine Islands. They were found on the Island of Negros and were obtained for the library by the care and interest of a young Filipino, Mr. Jose E. Marco, who was educated in American schools, and who appreciates the value of historical material much above the average. Although they have not yet been deciphered, it is known that they relate to certain old beliefs of the people. The key to their transcription is known, and their translation into English is only a matter of time. Their importance lies in the fact that they are the only known manuscripts of this class that have been preserved. The early friar missionaries are said to have destroyed many in their zeal to rid the land of all heathen influences. Several of the friar convents in Manila possess a few samples of the ancient writing, but they are written on paper and are mainly names of persons. The age of the library manuscripts can as yet only be guessed at as perhaps between one and two centuries, although it is not impossible that they might have been written nearer the time of the first Spanish settlements in 1565.

"Old Spanish writers assert that the Visayans could not write at the time of the conquest, but that the Tagalogs could. If this be true, the Visayans learned the art of writing after the advent of the Spaniards, and if this be so, determines roughly the age of these literary treasures. When discovered first, these manuscripts appear to have been covered with a resinous gum which acted as a preservative. It is reported by certain ethnologists that the half-wild mountain people of Negros carry native writings as charms, and that they guard these very jealously. In this connection should, perhaps, be mentioned the bamboo rolls owned by the library on which are etched the curious characters employed today by the Mangyans of Mindoro. These are modern and were made especially for the library through the interest of Commissioner Worcester."

When I have time to spare, I dig out the photograph of this manuscript and the description of it just to think about what it looked like, and what it contained. It makes me marvel at the warped genius that was Jose E. Marco.

I am happy to note that we are winning the battle to have Kalantiaw deleted from our textbooks despite the understandable objections and ruffled feathers of some people from Aklan. I wonder why nobody suspected Marco's handiwork in the Code of Kalantiaw earlier. Perhaps they were blinded by the wish to find a pre-Spanish law.

My students have added one more nail to the coffin because when we say that "ka" is the prefix for pre-colonial nobility and the datu was named "Lantiaw," we are also blinded by history. In local Chinese "ka" is "to bite" and "lantiaw" is the vulgar word for testicles.

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu.

Maharlika – Samu't Sari

Fil-Ams outraged over Arroyo's US property

By MARCONI CALINDAS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

FOSTER CITY, California—Filipino-Americans held a rally to express their outrage over presidential son and Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo's alleged questionable acquisition of a $1.3-million (P63.7-million) property in California.

Members of BAYAN-USA staged a Friday morning protest in front of the five-bedroom house that Arroyo reportedly purchased along Beach Park Boulevard in Foster City, an affluent city of the San Mateo County in Northern California. Some members of Gabriela-USA, BABAE and the National Alliance of Filipino Concerns joined the rally.

"We came all the way out here to Foster City to express our outrage at Congressman Arroyo's spending habits, especially for this $1.3M house," said BAYAN-USA deputy secretary general Jack De Jesus.

He said the million dollars that were spent to acquire the property should have been spent serving the needs of the Filipino people in the Philippines.

"As U.S. citizens here, we pay taxes here. The U.S. government spends a lot to support the Philippines, hence we would like that money spent not on the house but for the needs of Filipinos back home," he said.

Filipino Community Center director Terrence Valen called for both the Philippine and U.S governments to look into whether the source of the funds to purchase the lot is legitimate or from ill-gotten wealth.

Valen said a lot of Filipinos in the U.S. are struggling and their houses are being foreclosed by the day. "And here you have a Philippine politician, buying million-dollar houses in the U.S. It's not milk and honey over here in the U.S. but perhaps to the Arroyos it is. We are in crisis here as well," he said.

The group held the rally for an hour, holding up banners and placards. Two protesters were dressed up as the mother-and-son tandem Philippine President Gloria Arroyo and his son Mikey Arroyo.

Some of the banners even mimicked a credit card commercial that read, "One dinner check at a lavish GMA evening party on her recent trip to the US: More than $20,000; the cost of this San Francisco Bay Area house bought with Mikey's Arroyo's unreported, ill-gotten wealth: $1.32 million; Mikey learning lessons in corruption from his mommy and getting caught: priceless."

The Vera Files first reported Arroyo's purchase of the property and his failure to declare it in his 2007 and 2008 Statement of Assets, Liabilities, and Net Worth.

The report said the property—which is now up for sale—was bought by the congressman and transferred to his second cousin and wife, Angela Arroyo Montenegro, in 2006. Under the Philippine law, the filing of SALN requires government officials to declare assets owned by their spouses.

Arroyo has denied owning any property in the U.S. He says Beach Way Park LLC, in which he is a shareholder, owns the estate located at 1655 Beach Park Boulevard in Foster City, San Mateo County.

Vera Files, moreover, claims that, as of Aug. 31, 2009, the property remains under the name of the congressman's wife. Vera Files also reported that a search of business entities on the databases of the San Mateo County, State of California, and the US Securities and Exchange Commission yielded no "Beach Way Park."

GABRIELA-USA director Raquel Redondiez told this reporter that the rally will hopefully stress the contrast between the acquired property in the U.S. and living conditions back in the Philippines.

"We want to express our concerns for Mikey Arroyo's cover-up of his property here. Filipinos in the U.S., especially in Bay Area, are concerned about how he [Arroyo] failed to report this house."

Redondiez said it is even more disconcerting to learn that since Arroyo came into office, his income and wealth has multiplied from P5 million in 2002 to P77 million in 2005. At present, Arroyo reportedly has a total net worth of P99 million.

On a public servant salary, one would not be able to afford a house like the one in Foster City, Redondiez said.

"He [Arroyo] continues covering them up. He's following the footsteps of his parents. It's a stark contrast looking at this five-bedroom house from the daily reality of Filipinos living back home. The time that the Philippine economy has plummeted, his personal income has skyrocketed," she said.

In a recent interview with broadcaster and economist Solita Collas Monsod over GMA-7, Arroyo attributed the increase of his wealth to the gifts he received when he got married and the funds donated to him when he ran for public office. The interview has become a YouTube sensation.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

LEAD SCREENING
Nursing students from the Emmanuel College of Nursing pose with students and staff of the Garapan Head Start after doing a lead screening among the students. All Head Start programs across the country are required to conduct lead screening on all children. Children with elevated levels of lead in their blood can have anemia, hearing loss, developmental delays, growth problems, kidney problems and seizure disorders.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
A father comforts his son at the Garapan Head Start as a nursing student drew a blood sample from the child's fingertip to test for lead levels. Lead poisoning is a condition of environmental exposure to dust or chips from lead-base paints, drinking water from pipes lined or soldered with lead, or living near a lead smelter, battery recycling business or within a block of a major highway. Additionally, many toys and children's jewelry have lead paint or lead based products.

MVA

EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER
Marketing specialist I Hyun Joo "Skye" Seo was recognized by Marianas Visitors Authority as Employee of the Quarter on Sept. 11, 2009. Seo was commended for being "on target, on time, and on budget" with her projects and promotions, among other strong work performance. She has been employed with MVA since November 2007. Also pictured are MVA managing director Perry Tenorio, fourth from left, and MVA staff and management.

NEW ADMIRAL
Rear Adm. Peter Gumataotao receives his new flag officer combination cover from his father. Gumataotao, the first Guamanian to achieve the rank of flag officer, was joined throughout the ceremony by his family, whom he credits with instilling many of the values he has built upon throughout his naval career.

U.S. NAVY

NMC

COOPERATIVE STUDY
Northern Marianas College president Dr. Carmen Fernandez, seated center, poses for a photo with officials from the Japan-based University of the Ryukyus after a recent meeting held at the college's As Terlaje campus. Also in photo is Michael Ogo, acting director of Cooperative Research Extension and Education Services, standing center. Officials from the Japan university visited Saipan to begin a study on the environment's condition, the local economy, and the local culture and nutrition. The group met with Fernandez to arrange a cooperative study and exchange between NMC and the University of the Ryukyus.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT
Happy birthday greetings to Maximilian Hamilton, who is celebrating his third birthday today, Sept. 19, 2009. "May you enjoy your special day and we pray that you will have many more birthdays to come." Greetings come from your parents.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Young Style

The Germ-Fighter in Chief

By VALERIE STRAUSS
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON — There is a woman whose job it is to try to keep you healthy—and no, it isn't your mother.

Kathleen Sebelius is President Barack Obama's secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, and she spends her days leading the federal government's effort to protect the health of Americans.

These days Sebelius, 61, is a very busy woman. Two of the most important issues in the country today involve the health of Americans: the spread of swine flu, and government efforts to improve the health-care system in the country.

One of her main jobs is educating people, especially kids, about how to avoid the flu.

Why are kids so important?

Because so far, Sebelius said, most of the people who have gotten swine flu, also called the H1N1 virus, in this country are between ages 5 and 24. Officials say that this fall as much as half of the U.S. population could become infected.

"It is important for kids to know that they can do something about this and not just sit around and wait to get sick," she said.

So Sebelius talks to kids a lot about washing their hands (for about 20 seconds each time in soapy water) and about never coughing or sneezing into the air or into your hands, even if it means using your sleeve if no tissue is available! Here's a reason for kids to like this government official: She urges kids to stay home from school if they feel sick.

For Sebelius, the mother of two sons in their 20s, government service runs in the family.

Her father, John Gilligan, was first elected to the City Council in Cincinnati, when she was 5 and was in politics for decades. He won the 1970 race to be Ohio's governor. Three decades later, Kathleen, who had married Gary Sebelius, was elected governor of Kansas, and she was re-elected in 2006.

She and her father are the first father and daughter to be governors in American history! Sebelius stepped down as governor when Obama asked her to move to Washington and become one of seven women in his Cabinet (his team of top advisers).

THE WASHINGTON POST

Kathleen Sebelius, secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services and a former governor of Kansas, has reminders of home: a gift from the University of Kansas basketball team, which won the NCAA championship in 2008. The basketball is on display in her Washington office.

She said it meant a great deal to her that her dad, now 88, watched her take the oath of office. Sebelius said that her job keeps her busy from early morning to late at night but that each day is different.

She wakes up about 6 a.m. and tries to run about four miles down by the Mall and the Capitol. She gets into her office about 8:30 a.m. and attends many meetings. She also travels a lot around the country.

THE WASHINGTON POST

As head of the Department of Health and Human Services, Kathleen Sebelius, shown in her Washington office, works to protect the health of Americans. One of her main jobs is educating people, especially kids, about how to avoid the flu.

She goes to the White House about three times a week to discuss issues with top officials. Most nights she gets home about 10 p.m.—but her work isn't yet done. She then reads about 50 pages of important material to get ready for the next day.

"I go home with homework every night," she said. "Kids need to understand that homework doesn't stop when they get out of school!"

Kathleen Sebelius at a glance

By VALERIE STRAUSS
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

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The Washington Post

Meet Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary of Health and Human Services

Born: Cincinnati, Ohio

Schools: Trinity College (now University) in Washington, University of Kansas

What's on her iPod: A wide range of music, including Toby Keith, Bonnie Raitt, the Grateful Dead

Favorite song: "Respect" by Aretha Franklin

Nickname as a kid: Gilligan (her last name before she was married)

Favorite subjects in school: History, English

Worst subject in school: "I wasn't a real language whiz, but I was a good student."

Favorite pizza topping: Veggies

Favorite ice cream: Any Graeter's flavors with chocolate chips (Graeter's was started in her home town!)

Favorite books as a kid: The Nancy Drew and Hardy Boys series

Favorite sport: All of them. "I'm a recovering jock."

Favorite movie: "Gone With the Wind"

How kids can protect themselves against flu

By MARGARET WEBB PRESSLER
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

You've probably heard about swine flu. Maybe you've seen news reports or talked to your parents about the new kind of influenza virus. But you may not know some of the ways in which this flu, also called H1N1, is unlike other types of flu.

First, flu viruses typically disappear when the weather gets warm, but this one kept going all summer. Second, kids seem to get this flu more than any other group. A new government report shows that school-age kids are especially likely to get infected with the virus. That has health officials worried that this particular flu will infect a lot more people now that kids are back in school, where germs can easily spread.

A vaccine for the virus will be ready next month. But there are things you can do now to protect against the flu. Here are some tips to help you, and others, stay healthy:

■ Wash your hands. It's so simple, but washing your hands frequently, with soap and water, is very effective at preventing illness. Lather up really well and wash your hands all over. Try this trick: Wash for as long as it takes you to sing "Happy Birthday" twice in your head. If you can't wash your hands, use an alcohol-based hand gel. Or do both.

■ Sneeze into your sleeve. Don't sneeze or cough into your hand or the air. Either cover your mouth with a tissue (and throw it away!) or cover your mouth with your arm. Once you get in the habit, you'll find that it's just as easy to raise your arm so you sneeze into the crook of your elbow. This keeps germs off your hands so you won't spread them around.

■ Get vaccinated. When your parents or teachers tell you it's time for your swine flu vaccine, don't complain! You might be able to get the nasal spray version of the vaccine rather than a shot. But even if you have to get a shot, it's still much better than feeling awful for a week or more. Plus, the H1N1 virus has spread especially quickly among young people, so many medical experts are saying that kids really need to get vaccinated.

■ Prepare for both flu viruses. This year you will need to get vaccinated for the regular seasonal flu and for the swine flu. The two viruses are different, so they have different vaccines. The regular flu vaccine is available now; you may have already gotten it.

■ Stay home. Don't go to school if you get sick, and stay home until 24 hours after your fever is gone. If your doctor tells you that you definitely have swine or regular flu, health officials want your siblings to stay home for five days so they don't spread it around their classrooms. Stock up on good books, because staying home means staying home, not spending the day at the mall, the movies or the park!

An H1N1 humor injection: Can you say FluTube?

THE WASHINGTON POST

"Physician Musician" John D. Clarke believes "health hop" is effective.

By RACHEL SASLOW
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

The YouTube video starts with a tightly cropped shot of a white lab coat embroidered with the name "John D. Clarke, M.D." The camera zooms out and Clarke, wearing aviator sunglasses and taking himself very seriously, launches into his rap, set to an earnest buh-doom, buh-doom beat.

H1N1 swine flu infection
For intervention, I bring prevention.
Dr. Clarke here I come to make your head numb ...
I'm recommending wash your hands for protection
Front and back real thorough while you count 20 seconds.
Hand sanitizer, I advise you get it, why?
It makes germs die when you rub and let it dry.

Watch out, Dr. Dre, there's a new rapping doctor out there—and he actually went to medical school.

You can see him at www.youtube.com/USGOVHHS, home of the Department of Health and Human Services' contest for public service announcements about flu prevention. Launched in July, the contest aimed to enlist public creativity to get out the department's message about washing your hands, not touching your face, and coughing into your sleeve or a tissue. Entries were required to end with a shout-out to the Web site Flu.gov.

The contest drew about 240 entries; most can still be seen on YouTube.

In one, a disembodied hand takes a toothbrush out of its bathroom holder, then scrubs it across ATM buttons, a computer mouse, a car door handle, a handrail and a cat before placing it carefully back over the sink. (This is all set to dainty classical music. Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 4 in G, to be specific.) The video ends with the text, "It's the same as touching your mouth without washing your hands."

"We wanted people to be creative and be funny because, frankly, that gets the message across better," said Richard Stapleton, deputy director of HHS' division of Web communications and new media. "You don't get your message across until people watch it, and if you have some dude lecturing you, not a lot of people are watching that."

In other words, they want the message to go ... viral.

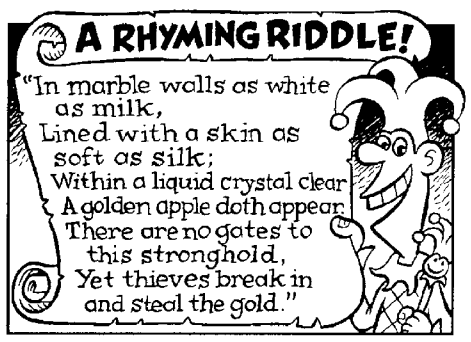
"Love it," wrote one YouTube viewer. "Very un-government-like."

Stapleton said, "Everybody who looks at them gets the message of ways to prevent the spread of the flu. Before we find a winner and promote that, it's already been a tremendous success."

The contest winner, to be announced Sept. 22, gets $2,500; the PSA will be used on national television during this fall's flu season.

John "The Physician Musician" Clarke, whose day job is medical director of the Long Island Rail Road, has been creating "health hop" music since 1997. He wrote his 60-second PSA three months ago (plus a freestyle, or improvised, version, which is also on YouTube) before he knew about the HHS contest.

"I'm excited about it because I do strongly believe that health hop, using rap music to reach young people with health information, is effective," Clarke said.


A RHYMING RIDDLE!
"In marble walls as white as milk,
Lined with a skin as soft as silk;
Within a liquid crystal clear
A golden apple doth appear.
There are no gates to this stronghold,
Yet thieves break in and steal the gold."

CAN YOU FIGURE OUT the answer to the Jolly Jester's Rhyming Riddle!

Answer: He's talking about an egg.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

1.	L							D
2.		L					D	
3.			L			D		
4.				L	D			
5.				D	L			
6.			D			L		
7.		D					L	
8.	D							L

FIND THE BIG WORDS!

Using the definitions and the anagrams below, you must find the eight eight-letter words that fit into the framework pictured on the left. For each definition, the letters in the two anagram words must be unscrambled and used to form the word asked for.

DEFINITIONS:	ANAGRAM:
1. What the shipbuilder did.	hand + clue
2. Found in toothpaste.	dour + file
3. Used to reckon time.	land + acre
4. A large kettle.	laud + corn
5. Found in newspaper.	nail + heed
6. Campers need them.	orbs + dell
7. Eccentric people.	dabs + doll
8. A wooden interlocking joint.	viol + date

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Answers: 1. Launched. 2. Fluoride. 3. Calendar. 4. Cauldron. 5. Headline. 6. Bedrolls. 7. Oddballs. 8. Dovetail.

CAN YOU EXPLAIN how a baseball pitcher could win a nine-inning game without once pitching to a batter?

Answer: He could if he were a substitute pitcher brought into the game at the top of the ninth inning with the score tied, two outs, and a man on first base. If he then picked the man off at first base, the side would be retired and his team would come to bat. If his team then scored the winning run, in the bottom of the ninth, he would be the winner without ever having pitched to a single batter.

Illustrated by David Coulson

LINK-UPS! Here's a list of 12 short words, divided into two columns. Turn them into six longer words by linking them together. To do this, draw a line from one word in the left column to one word in the right.

1.	JAB	ALE
2.	ERA	OWED
3.	GARB	BED
4.	FIN	END
5.	HALL	SING
6.	LEG	LED

Answers: jabbed, erasing, finale, garbled, hallowed, legend.

Hyper dogs, blind cat highlight fall books

This fall's pet books are robust and entertaining, and even well-known authors from the other end of the bookshelf are chiming in.

A couple of weeks ago, I mentioned a book, "Don't Dump the Dog" by Randy Grim, that offered advice on dealing with common but annoying behaviors from dogs. Frustrated owners may also want to check out "High-Energy Dogs: A Practical Guide to Living With Energetic and Driven Canines," by Tracy Libby (TFH Publications). Dogs like Australian shepherds, Jack Russell terriers and Basenjis can be a real handful, especially for the inexperienced owner, and it's all too easy to become frustrated with a spirited puppy. This colorful guide discusses characteristics of several high-energy, intelligent breeds and walks owners through methods of understanding and training such dogs.

"Homer's Odyssey," by Gwen Cooper (Delacorte Press), is an account of life with the "blind wonder cat," as Cooper describes the kitten she adopted at a Miami veterinarian's office. Expectations aren't high for Homer, who lost his eyes at just three weeks of age, but the kitten grows into an independent daredevil. It's a charming story, and a nice weekend read.

Finally, novelist Dean Koontz has taken his first step into nonfiction and pet writing with his memoir, "A Big Little Life" (Hyperion). Koontz recounts the joys of life with Trixie, a retired service dog with Canine Companions for Independence and the first dog he had ever owned. "A Big Little Life" is a big little diversion from his intense works of fiction, and a welcome new voice to pet memoirs. Pick up his and all this month's releases at your local bookstore or online.

■ ■ ■

Send your tips, questions and comments to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or e-mail them to pawscorner@hotmail.com.

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Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

■ It was beloved comedian Bill Cosby who made the following sage observation: "I don't know the key to success, but the key to failure is trying to please everybody."

■ Before the 1800s, lobster was not considered to be the delicacy it is today. In fact, the crustacean was so ill-regarded as a food source that only the very poor—such as widows, orphans and servants—ate them.

■ Famed 19th-century Russian composer Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky wasn't just a musical genius. With the ability to fluently speak Russian, French and German by the time he was 6 years old, he evidently had a gift for languages, too.

■ At 50 feet in diameter, the world's largest clock is the Colgate Clock. If you want to see it in person, you'll have to travel to Jersey City, N.J., to do so.

■ Besides having successful careers in film, what do Steven Spielberg, Tom Cruise, Sela Ward and Lucy Liu have in common? All of them had an engineer for a father. TV stars Mila Kunis and Ray Romano did, too, as did singer Mariah Carey.

■ When the popular word game Scrabble was first put on the market in 1938, the game's creator, Alfred Mosher Butts, received only 5 cents for each game that was sold.

■ When he was in college, comedian and TV host David Letterman was fired from his job as a disc jockey.

■ Considering the franchise's longevity, you might be surprised to learn that the original "Star Trek" series never did better than 52nd place in the ratings during its relatively brief three-year stint on TV in the late 1960s.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "The nice thing about being a celebrity is that when you bore people, they think it's their fault."—Henry Kissinger

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MAGIC MAZE ● WORDS WITH A "BAM"

Y	Z	W	T	Q	N	J	G	D	A	X	B	U	R	O
L	E	R	E	P	M	A	B	A	J	A	G	C	D	A
X	V	L	S	P	N	K	I	L	M	F	A	C	A	N
X	V	S	Z	E	D	I	M	A	B	R	A	C	A	A
Q	O	L	J	O	H	L	K	B	B	E	C	I	A	S
X	V	T	R	P	O	O	N	A	A	L	M	J	H	U
F	D	B	Y	X	V	B	M	M	M	A	T	R	P	B
O	M	K	I	E	T	A	M	A	B	O	R	P	E	M
G	E	D	B	Z	T	M	X	A	I	W	U	T	R	A
Q	O	N	L	E	J	B	L	I	B	G	F	D	C	B
D	L	E	I	F	M	A	B	M	A	B	O	I	R	A

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Abamp	Bamako	Bamfield	Meprobamate
Abampere	Bamboo	Carbamate	Obama
Alabama	Bamboozle	Carbamide	Riobamba
Alabamian	Bambusa	Lobamba	

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	+		x		25
x		+		+	
	x		–		12
+		x		÷	
	+		x		14
29		24		7	

1 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 9

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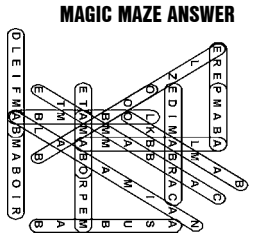
MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



GO FIGURE ANSWER

14	2	x	6	+	1
	÷		x		+
12	9	–	3	x	7
	+		+		x
25	5	x	1	+	4

Tasty and healthy vegetable ribbon salad

Wrap up the last of summer's harvest with colorful ribbons of orange, green, yellow and red. Abundant zucchini, summer squash and carrots can be woven together with fettuccine pasta for a tasty supper your family will enjoy from preparation to the last bite.

Hand each of your preteen kids their own vegetable peeler, give them a few tips for honing ribbon-making skills, and they'll keep busy and feel useful cutting vegetables while you cook up the pasta. A healthy supper will be ready in minutes.

8 ounces fettuccine pasta, cooked, drained and rinsed in cool water.

1 to 2 small-size green zucchini
1 yellow summer squash
2 medium-size carrots
1 scallion
1/2 fresh red pepper (optional)
1/2 cup of your favorite vinaigrette style salad dressing or traditional Vinaigrette (see recipe below)
1/2 cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese
Chopped parsley or basil

1. Trim off the ends of the zucchini, squash and carrots. Use a vegetable peeler to cut the vegetables lengthwise into long, thin, ribbonlike strips. When you reach the inner seeds of the zucchini and summer squash, stop and continue slicing the other side. Discard the centers. Place all the vegetable ribbons into a large bowl.

2. Trim off the green ends of the scallion. Tear them into thin long strips with your fingers. Add to the vegetables.

3. Add pasta and toss lightly with your favorite vinaigrette dressing or prepare the basic recipe below. Cut thin slices of the red pepper and arrange on top, if you wish. Top with grated Parmesan and parsley or basil. Serve with French bread. Serves 4 to 6.

Extra tip: If your kids love apples, add one to the salad for sweetness. Peel, core and cut an apple into 4 slices. Peel strips from each slice and add to the vegetable ribbons.

BASIC VINAIGRETTE

1/2 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
1/4 cup white wine or sherry vinegar
3/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil

In a small bowl, let one child whisk the salt, mustard and vinegar together. While whisking, another child may slowly add the oil in a stream until the mixture is well-combined. Makes 1 cup.

Store covered at room temperature for a week or in the refrigerator for a month.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning television series "Donna's Day" airs on public television nationwide. Visit www.donnasday.com to find out when it airs on your local PBS station and to sign up for Donna's e-newsletter.

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Life & Style

Records: $86,804 a month to Jackson's mom, kids

Michael Jackson's mother is receiving $86,804 per month from her son's estate to support herself and her three grandchildren, according to court records released Thursday.

Katherine Jackson is one of the primary beneficiaries of her son's estate along with the late pop singer's three young children and unnamed charities.

Over the course of a year, Jackson's mother and children are slated to receive more than $1 million in support from the estate. Katherine Jackson's monthly allowance is $26,804; the children's allowance is $60,000 per month.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Mitchell Beckloff approved a monthly stipend for Katherine Jackson and her three grandchildren in August. The amount of the payments had been sealed until Thursday.

Katherine Jackson has been named the children's permanent guardian. They are currently living at the Jackson family home in the San Fernando Valley.

Jackson

Katherine Jackson's $26,804 per month pays for an assistant, housekeeper, driver, utilities, clothing, grooming and other expenses.

The petition does not provide many details about how the money is being spent on Jackson's children, who range in age from 7 to 12. A redacted spreadsheet included in the filings states that $315,000 per year is being spent on employees caring for the children, and another $160,000 is being set aside for entertainment and other expenses.

Attorneys for the estate argued that release of the names of staffers helping care for the children could compromise their security and privacy. Michael Jackson was extremely protective of his children, often dressing them in costumes or masks to hide their faces when they were in public.

Beckloff agreed to keep those details private but said he did not think the total amounts could remain sealed. Katherine Jackson's attorney had argued that records should remain private.

The judge has scheduled a progress report for Oct. 2 to hear how the children are faring since their father's death.

Estate attorneys have said they do not know how much of the expenses being paid to Katherine Jackson may be helping other members of the family. When the stipend was approved in August, they said they may revisit how much will be paid later. ***(AP)***

John Leguizamo, Penelope Cruz win ALMA Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Nothing Like the Holidays" had a merry time at the ALMA Awards.

The ensemble family drama starring John Leguizamo, Debra Messing and Freddy Rodriguez won three awards at Thursday's ceremony, which recognized achievements by Hispanic artists in film, television and music over the past year. Leguizamo, screenwriter Rick Najera and director Alfredo De Villa were each awarded trophies for their work in the film category.

John Leguizamo arrives at the ALMA Awards on Thursday, Sept. 17, 2009, in Los Angeles.
AP

Penelope Cruz won the film actress award for "Vicky Cristina Barcelona" while "Twilight" makeup artist Jeanne Van Phue and hair stylist Mary Ann Valdes picked up awards for their behind-the-scenes work. David Archuleta and Pitbull won prizes in the music category during the ceremony at UCLA's Royce Hall. The show is scheduled to be televised Friday by ABC.

Honorees in the TV category included Benjamin Bratt from A&E's "The Cleaner" as drama actor, Lauren Velez from Showtime's "Dexter" as drama actress, Oscar Nunez from NBC's "The Office" as comedy actor, Selena Gomez from Disney Channel's "Wizards of Waverly Place" as comedy actress and Latino Public Broadcasting in the documentary category.

Oscar De La Hoya received the Special Achievement in Sports Television award while Salma Hayek was given the Anthony Quinn Award for Industry Excellence. Rita Moreno presented a tribute to the late Ricardo Montalban. ALMA Awards creator Raul Yzaguirre was awarded the first-ever PepsiCo Adelante Award for his lifetime of service to the Latino community.

The ALMA Awards were created in 1995 by the National Council of La Raza, a national Latino civil rights and advocacy organization, as part of its effort to promote diverse and fair portrayals of Latinos in the media. ALMA stands for American Latino Media Arts and means "soul" in Spanish. George Lopez and Eva Longoria Parker hosted this year's ceremony.

Seth Meyers says Palin was 'fastball' for 'SNL' writers

NEW YORK (AP)—Sarah Palin may not be around as a font of comic material this year, but Seth Meyers of "Saturday Night Live" doubts he'll be starved for things to poke fun at.

The "SNL" season begins this week with the first of three NBC's "Weekend Update Thursday" specials this fall. For the first two, Meyers will be joined by "SNL" alum Amy Poehler as his co-anchor.

A certain dread lingered backstage at last year's shows during Tina Fey's memorable impersonations of the Republican vice presidential candidate, Meyers said.

"We were a little bit terrified because it was such juicy material we didn't want to let ourselves down by missing on it," Meyers said. "We got a fastball last year."

The attention may not be as intense this year, but politicians are still providing plenty of material, he said.

AP
In this June 8, 2009 file photo, comedian/actor Seth Meyers arrives for the 13th annual Webby Awards in New York.

Fred Armisen will continue to portray President Barack Obama. "As a writing staff, we do find it kind of tricky to crack the Obama nut, but I do think we'll get there," he said.

Meyers said he enjoys getting a jump on the news in the Thursday shows, which can make the topical material a little fresher than on Saturdays.

The Saturday version of the late-night standby premieres Sept. 26, with Megan Fox as host and U2 as musical guest. The show has shuffled some cast members: Michaela Watkins and Casey Wilson are out, comics Jenny Slate and Nasim Pedrad are in.

It's Meyers' ninth year on the show. He started as a cast member and did some uncredited writing. He later changed his focus to writing and now has the influential position of head writer.

"I thought I was good at (acting), at a place where you should be better than good," he said. "I find far more joy in writing things knowing that the lines will be said by cast members far more talented than I."

In Loving Memory

Pasqual Ngiraiterong Brel

Fondly known as "**OITE**"

January 2, 1945 to September 6, 2009

"Of Melekeok, Palau, having made Saipan his home for many years, was called to eternal life by our Heavenly Father at the age of 64."

He now joins his daughter: †Baslisa Brel and all his relatives and ancestors that predeceased him.

Prayers will be offered each evening at his residence in Chalan Kiya, beginning September 16,2009 through September 18, 2009 at 8:00pm.

Oite will be missed and remembered in the hearts of his,

Wife: Isadora West Brel
Daughter: Micheline Brel (Aiden Ngiratis; Tegan Baslisa)
Sons: Lanz Brel and Lucky Brel
Sisters: Akemi Delbirt, Damiana "Nana" Ruluked, Angeline Sandei Ilek
Brothers: Dismas Sandei Ilek, Sinesio Sandei Ilek, Evalisto Ilek, Richard Sandei, Lewis Ilek, Isidoro Ilek, Toshiro Mifune Sandei Ilek

As well as numerous cousins, nieces, nephews, his brothers and sisters in laws, Christian fellows, friends and neighbors.

Last Respects & Christian Fellowship for Oite will be held at the Saipan Palauan Evangelical Church in Navy Hill on September 19, 2009 (Saturday) at 8:00 a.m.

Internment will follow at Tanapag Cemetery.

DEATH AND FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Felicitas Dalit Jucutan
"Felicing"

Was called to eternal rest
on September 14, 2009

In her new life she now joins her:

Husband : Wensislao Pascua Jucutan
Son : Reynaldo Dalit Jucutan

She will be greatly missed and remembered in the hearts of her family:

Her children, their spouses and families:

Danilo and Joselyn: Danilo Jr. and Malou (Dexter and Maynard), Liberty and Jun (Liona Jordan and Danica (Drianna Janeen and Jordan Jr.), Diana, James, and Cristinee

Edwardo and Emily: Mark, Cindy, and Jermaine

Joseph and Elizabeth Aquino: Czerina and Joseph Jr.

Virgie and Jeffery Capozzi: Gerald, Glenn, Roxanne (Noa and Mia), and Janet (Devine,Vika, and Rrina)

Cathleen and Manuel Soriano: Glenn and Jerusalem (Quincy, Myra Kate and Roman Thomas), Jeffrey, Alvin, and Klynne

She will be missed by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends.

Prayers will be offered every evening at the CHC Chapel on Tuesday, September 15, 2009 from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Viewing will be offered at the CHC Chapel on Saturday, September 19, 2009 where services will begin at 1:00 PM. Burial will immediately follow at the Tanapag Cemetery.

Thank you and Salamat Po.

Jucutan Family

Police arrest suspect in Lohan burglary

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Police arrested a man on Thursday who is suspected of breaking into the homes of Lindsay Lohan and Audrina Patridge.

Officer Rosario Herrera said detectives arrested Nicholas Prugo, 18, on suspicion of felony burglary. Prugo was being held on $20,000 bail.

Herrera said the investigation is ongoing and there were no details about whether any property was recovered. No one else has been arrested, she said.

Jail records did not indicate whether Prugo has an attorney.

Lohan's Hollywood Hills home was broken into last month. Patridge, a star of MTV's show "The Hills," had her home burglarized in February.

Both women turned over surveillance footage of the break-ins. Lohan's footage showed three people, while Patridge's cameras captured a man and a woman.

A publicist for Patridge, 24, declined to comment. Lohan's publicist did not immediately reply to an e-mail sent after hours Thursday.

Lohan, 23, has starred in films such as "Mean Girls" and "Herbie Fully Loaded." She posted a Twitter message after the burglary at her house stating that several items of sentimental value were taken.

Neither actress was home at the time of the burglary.

Heigl and husband adopt baby girl from Korea

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Katherine Heigl and husband Josh Kelley have completed their adoption of a baby girl from Korea.

Heigl spokeswoman Melissa Kates says the couple named the 10-month-old Nancy Leigh, after the actress's mother Nancy and her sister Margaret Leigh. The girl will go by the nickname Naleigh.

Kates says both parents and Naleigh are together and doing well. The couple is putting photos of their daughter up on http://www.jasonheiglfoundation.org , the Web site of Heigl's animal-rescue foundation.

Heigl plays Dr. Izzie Stevens on ABC's "Grey's Anatomy" and is currently shooting the film "Life as We Know It."

She and Kelley, a singer-songwriter, have been married since 2007.

AP

In this photo released by PMK/HBH on Thursday, Sept. 17, 2009, actress Katherine Heigl and her husband Josh Kelley pose with their adopted 10-month-old baby girl from Korea, Saturday, Sept. 12, 2009.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

TV anchor's flub turns into catch phrase overnight

NEW YORK (AP)—A veteran New York City news anchor flubs a line and an obscene catch phrase goes viral on the Internet. Ernie Anastos of Fox affiliate WNYW was bantering with the weatherman Wednesday night when he cheerfully dropped an F-bomb on the air. What he likely intended to say was, "Keep plucking that chicken." Anastos didn't appear to recognize the error, though co-anchor Dari Alexander's eyes bugged out after he said it. Videos of the mistake circulated widely online Thursday, as the phrase took on a life of its own. Fox isn't laughing, though. The vice president and general manager of WNYW, Lew Leone, says he's "disappointed" in Anastos' comment. During Thursday's newscast, Anastos said he misspoke and apologized to anyone who may have been offended.

Young class of divas inducted on VH1 special

NEW YORK (AP)—There's a new class of divas in town—and they're ready to rock with attitude. Jennifer Hudson, Miley Cyrus and Kelly Clarkson were among the new inductees at the "VH1 Divas" concert Thursday night. Paula Abdul hosted and opened the show, but she got the most attention for poking fun at her "American Idol" replacement Ellen DeGeneres—rocking a signature suit, tennis shoes and a short blonde wig—while prancing around onstage. Hudson may have had the night's biggest diva moment—a duet with Stevie Wonder, who she calls her "childhood hero." Cyndi Lauper, Liza Minnelli, Sheryl Crow, Leona Lewis, Adele, Jordin Sparks and India.Arie also appeared. The show aired live from the Brooklyn Academy of Music.

Comedy Central revives comedy awards show

NEW YORK (AP)—Comedy Central says it is reviving the defunct American Comedy Awards. The awards show took place for 15 years, the last time in 2001 and televised by Comedy Central. The network said Thursday it plans to bring the awards show back to life and is teaming with prominent awards show producer Don Mischer. It will honor a year's worth of best comedy writing and performance in film, television and over the Internet. Comedy Central says it expects the first new American Comedy Awards to air near the end of next year, simultaneously on its network and corporate partners Spike TV and TV Land.

Kanye West gets 9 BET Hip-Hop Awards nominations

ATLANTA (AP)—Kanye West might still be under fire for his controversial act on MTV, but the ranting rapper could be looking at plenty of praise from BET next month. West has received nine nominations for the fourth annual BET Hip-Hop Awards, which will be televised Oct. 27. The rapper caused a stir Sunday after he interrupted 19-year-old country singer Taylor Swift's acceptance speech at the MTV Video Music Awards. The 32-year-old West's latest album, "808 & Heartbreak," has sold over a million copies. Jay-Z and Lil Wayne drew the second-most nominations with seven apiece, while T.I. received six nods. The network will also recognize veteran rapper Ice Cube with the "I Am Hip-Hop" icon award. The show will be hosted by comedian Mike Epps.

Miller, Fogerty honored at Americana Music Awards

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Buddy Miller won four awards and veteran John Fogerty received a special honor Thursday night at the eighth annual Americana Music Association Honors and Awards Show.

Miller, a singer-songwriter, won artist of the year; album of the year for "Written in Chalk" with wife Julie Miller; duo/group of the year with his wife; and song of the year for "Chalk" performed with Patty Griffin.

Fogerty, formerly of Creedence Clearwater Revival, was honored with a lifetime achievement award for songwriting.

During a four-decade career, he has written such hits as "Proud Mary," "Have You Ever Seen the Rain," "Fortunate Son," "Who'll Stop the Rain," "Bad Moon Rising" and others.

Miller has been touring this year with Emmylou Harris, Alison Krauss and Robert Plant and others.

Also receiving lifetime achievement awards were Asleep at the Wheel for performing; Ken Levitan for executive work; Jim Rooney as a producer/engineer, and Sam Bush as an instrumentalist.

Justin Townes Earle won new artist of the year, and multi-instrumentalist Gurf Morlix was chosen over Buddy Miller as instrumentalist of the year. Miller had won it two straight years.

The late Lowell George of Little Feat was honored with the President's Award.

Jim Lauderdale hosted the show at the Ryman Auditorium.

The organization, celebrating its 10th anniversary, is a professional trade group whose mission is to promote the country and roots-oriented genre. It is sponsoring a festival and conference through Saturday.

Man gets the scoop on where to drop off doggie's deposit

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I were walking our terriers one evening when one had to answer nature's call. Being responsible dog owners, I picked up the "deposit" with a bag we carry for such occasions.

It was garbage pickup day and the neighbors' trash cans were out at the curb, so at the next house I placed the bag in the trash can. My wife, family and co-workers all think this was not appropriate—that I should have carried it home and disposed of it in our trash can.

Abby, we were 15 minutes from home, but given the choice, I would rather not carry that bag and figured a garbage bin is a garbage bin. I'll abide by your answer and admit I was wrong if you say so.

POOPED OUT IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR P.O.: As long as the bag was securely sealed, I don't think adding it to someone's trash bin was a social no-no. But I do have one suggestion: Keep your water cooler conversation at a higher level and you'll get less poop from your co-workers. Your wife is another story.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My 22-year-old son is involved with a 22-year-old girl who is married. He has moved in with her, her husband and their 4-year-old son. He says he's happy with the arrangement.

I have tried to accept this even though I don't approve. I don't want to alienate my son, but I see no good coming from this lifestyle. Abby, please help.

DISGUSTED MOM IN HENDERSON, NEV.

DEAR DISGUSTED MOM: You do not have to "accept" the arrangement, and as your son's mother you are entitled to tell him you don't approve and why. But he is over 21, and some lessons have to be learned the hard way. So remain calm and bide your time because, sooner or later, the husband's tolerance will wear thin or your son will realize that he deserves to rate higher than No. 2.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have a gripe I haven't seen addressed in your column. I receive labels, free gifts and even money from charities asking for donations. Why aren't they using all that money for the charity?

I thought I'd done the right thing by sending annual contributions to one charity. Then I get frequent appeals from them that they have run into extra expenses and want more! Americans are generous people, but these groups are bleeding us dry. I'm on the verge of not contributing to any of them.

TURNED OFF IN TOPEKA

DEAR TURNED OFF: Charities (and causes) hire specialized companies that analyze what kind of "appeals" generate the most money. They have figured out that people who receive "gifts" feel "obligated" to reciprocate—hence the labels, notepads, etc.

As to being solicited more than once a year, this is done because many people can't remember exactly when they last donated and, in my opinion, it's a way of taking advantage. That said, with the economy in the shape it's in, many charities are genuinely suffering. The need is great—so please do not stop giving altogether.

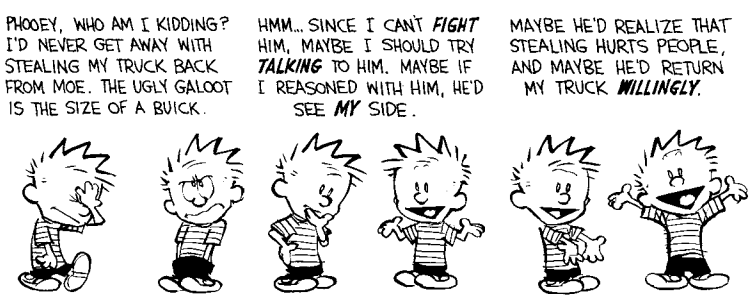
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby – Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


PHOOEY, WHO AM I KIDDING? I'D NEVER GET AWAY WITH STEALING MY TRUCK BACK FROM MOE. THE UGLY GALOOT IS THE SIZE OF A BUICK.
HMM... SINCE I CAN'T FIGHT HIM, MAYBE I SHOULD TRY TALKING TO HIM. MAYBE IF I REASONED WITH HIM, HE'D SEE MY SIDE.
MAYBE HE'D REALIZE THAT STEALING HURTS PEOPLE, AND MAYBE HE'D RETURN MY TRUCK WILLINGLY.

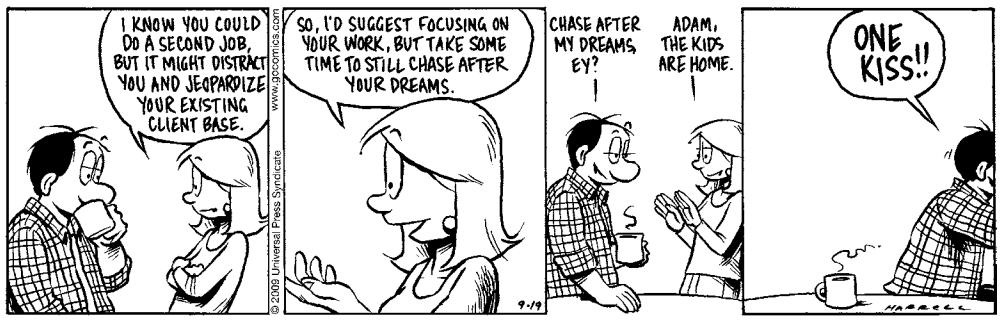
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

SOMEBODY PUSHED LITTLE TIMMY DOWN THE OLD WELL!
www.garfield.com
© 2009 PAWS, INC. All Rights Reserved.
UH...
THERE ISN'T A SECURITY CAMERA THERE, IS THERE?
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate
JIM DAVIS 9-19

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


I KNOW YOU COULD DO A SECOND JOB, BUT IT MIGHT DISTRACT YOU AND JEOPARDIZE YOUR EXISTING CLIENT BASE.
SO, I'D SUGGEST FOCUSING ON YOUR WORK, BUT TAKE SOME TIME TO STILL CHASE AFTER YOUR DREAMS.
© 2009 Universal Press Syndicate www.gocomics.com
9-19
CHASE AFTER MY DREAMS, EY?
ADAM, THE KIDS ARE HOME.
ONE KISS!!
HARGREAVE

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

I THINK THE TV execs ARE RUNNING OUT OF REALITY SHOW iDEAS.
WHAT ARE YOU WATCHING?
"SO YOU THINK YOU CAN DANCE BETTER THAN A FIFTH GRADER."
Glenn McCoy 9-19 © Glenn McCoy/Dist. by Universal Press Syndicate

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

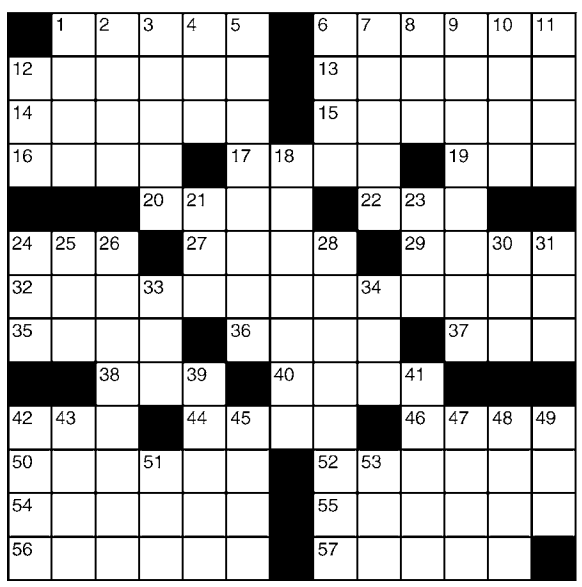
ACROSS
1 Alabama city
6 Soda shoppe supply
12 Tune
13 Lawrence's territory
14 With little effort
15 Cure
16 Watchful one
17 Doppelgänger
19 "Absolutely"
20 Capital of Qatar
22 Afternoon social
24 Wield a needle
27 Flippers
29 Opening stake
32 Integral component
35 Chinese dollar
36 Bacterium
37 "A mouse!"
38 To the — degree
40 Laugh-a-minute
42 Laugh-a-minute
44 Expel
46 Scandinavian city
50 Wolves, at times
52 Under the influence, with "out"
54 Threatening comment
55 Motor
56 Chute's opposite
57 Takes five

DOWN
1 Remain
2 Gaelic
3 Scottish landowner
4 Wire measure
5 "— Goes"
6 Ganges wrap
7 Former Mississippi senator Lott
8 Aries
9 Suspension
10 Broad
11 Puts into words
12 Witness
18 Roams
21 Son-gun link
23 Listener
24 Maxwell Smart, e.g.
25 Perfume label word
26 Bickered
28 White wine and soda water mixture
30 Ball-bearing item
31 Wapiti
33 Potent stick
34 Latin 101 word
39 Equine
41 Ice bucket accessory
42 Sweater material
43 "Slumdog Millionaire" locale
45 Addict
47 Revue segment
48 Eye part
49 Keats creation
51 Bygone times, in bygone times
53 Indivisible

Solution time: 27 mins.

Y	A	W	■	B	A	L	M	■	Z	O	N	E
O	N	O	■	E	V	E	R	■	E	D	E	N
G	O	O	D	Y	E	A	R	■	P	E	W	S
I	N	D	O	O	R	■	I	M	P	■	■	■
■	■	■	T	N	T	■	G	O	O	G	O	L
A	N	T	E	D	■	A	H	A	■	R	O	E
G	E	A	R	■	I	N	T	■	M	A	Z	E
O	R	R	■	B	M	I	■	F	O	Y	E	R
G	O	O	F	U	P	■	N	A	N	■	■	■
■	■	■	O	S	U	■	A	L	T	H	E	A
J	I	N	X	■	G	O	O	S	E	E	G	G
O	P	I	E	■	N	A	M	E	■	M	A	E
G	O	B	S	■	S	T	I	R	■	I	D	S

Yesterday's answer 9-19



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kevin Zegers, 25; Alison Sweeney, 33; Jimmy Fallon, 35; Trisha Yearwood, 45

Happy Birthday: Don't let personal issues hold you back. Follow through with your plans even if you are faced with a disgruntled family member. You can make adjustments that ease your stress and make your life more enjoyable. Rethink your professional strategy. Set a standard instead of following one that is outdated. Your numbers are 9, 12, 15, 24, 28, 35, 42

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Avoid emotional outbursts or arguments with people who can influence your future. Problems at home or within a personal relationship will be difficult to handle and should be dealt with calmly and without ultimatums. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Good things can happen if you look for a new position or get involved in a project that interests you. Your talents will be put to good use and that will help you gain respect, admiration and a better position. Dedication will pay off. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You will be able to impress others with your candor, good humor and interesting conversation. It's when you let down your guard or allow someone to take advantage of you that the trouble will develop. Don't take offense if someone criticizes you. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't overanalyze or put too much emphasis on someone's emotional response to the things you are pursuing or doing. You have to trust in your own abilities and carry on with your plans. You know what's best for yourself. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Romance is looking good and the opportunity to spend time with someone you find interesting will lead to a better relationship. You will have interesting conversations, making decisions regarding your future plans. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Take on new tasks and you will find something you enjoy doing that can also be quite lucrative. A change in plans will enable you to help someone who has something to offer in return. Added responsibility will bring you added clout. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't let things get you down. What is happening at home and with your current position is just forcing you to make a couple of greatly-needed changes. A bond you have with someone will take on a new and exciting dimension. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Take the lead you get from someone who has been there and done what you are trying to accomplish. The help and suggestions you get should allow you to move ahead and add your own unique spin. Expansion is now possible. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Don't make waves unless you are up for a good fight. Stick to what you know and keep things laid-back and easygoing. Maintaining your position personally and professionally should be your priority. ✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You know what you must do and, although not everyone will be happy with the decision or changes you make, proceed to the finish line. The hidden advantages will allow you to make it up to anyone who is disgruntled with your plans. Avoid anyone who is nagging or repetitious. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): There is cash to be made if you offer to help someone in need. Equality will be what you are looking for in both business and personal partnerships. You don't have to spend to impress. Offer your wisdom, not your cash. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You'll have a judgment call to make that could cost you personally, emotionally and financially. Make sure you have the facts and figures to back your final decision. If you want success, consider how you will affect others with your choices. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are practical and have strength and courage. You are a humanitarian but expect others to work as hard as you.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	3						8	
7			4		5			6
		1				7		
4	1						2	3
			9		7			
6	8						5	7
		3				8		
2			8		4			5
	7						3	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 9/19

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	8	1	6	3	4	9	7	5
6	9	3	7	5	1	4	8	2
4	5	7	2	8	9	3	1	6
3	2	8	4	1	6	5	9	7
1	4	5	8	9	7	6	2	3
7	6	9	5	2	3	8	4	1
8	7	4	1	6	5	2	3	9
9	1	6	3	4	2	7	5	8
5	3	2	9	7	8	1	6	4

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 9/18

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

HASSELBLAD PRODUCTS **Solution: 9 letters**

G	M	S	L	A	I	R	E	A	C	A	M	E	R	A
E	R	E	H	P	S	O	M	T	A	O	K	A	A	E
R	S	U	C	O	F	T	N	O	O	A	E	C	S	A
M	T	I	B	R	O	U	R	Z	D	G	M	O	A	K
A	I	R	O	S	O	T	J	O	E	E	P	L	N	S
N	O	L	A	M	T	N	K	I	N	X	L	O	I	I
T	L	(S)	I	N	S	H	A	D	E	A	G	R	A	F
E	L	(N)	P	T	S	M	G	M	E	P	U	S	V	A
C	O	(E)	S	A	A	M	O	I	T	E	I	T	I	R
H	P	(L)	L	T	C	R	I	O	L	S	P	M	C	G
N	A	F	E	I	U	E	Y	S	N	F	A	S	T	O
I	X	U	T	N	E	D	E	W	S	G	R	E	O	T
C	R	P	N	O	I	S	I	V	E	I	E	A	R	O
A	O	E	P	Y	T	O	T	O	R	P	O	L	M	F
L	A	B	S	U	R	V	E	I	L	L	A	N	C	E

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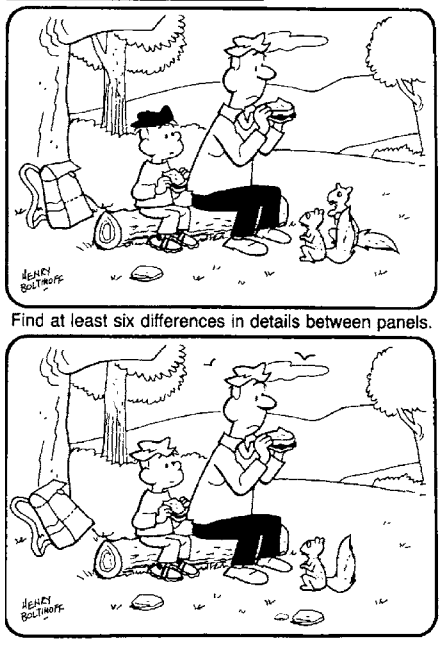
Aerial, Amateur, Apollo, Astronaut, Atmosphere, Camera, Colors, Eastman, Expose, Film, Flash, Focus, Fotografiska, Frame, Fuji, Gear, German, Image, Kodak, Labs, Lens, Lights, Military, Model, Moon, Mount, NASA, Optic, Orbit, Prototype, Roll, Shade, Shoot, Space, Speed, Studio, Surveillance, Sweden, Technical, Transmission, Victor, Vision, Zoom

Yesterday's Answer: Arteries

Treasury 5 or 7 Send check or money order for $10.95 each plus $3.25 postage and handling each ($14.20 total each, U.S. funds only) for the first volume, $1.50 p&h for each additional volume, to Universal Press Syndicate, Attn: Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480 Order online at upuzzles.com.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

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Differences: 1. Squirrel is missing. 2. Birds are in sky. 3. Boy's hat is different. 4. More rocks are on ground. 5. Knapsack has been moved. 6. Tree branch is missing.

Wishing Well®

4	6	5	6	7	5	4	5	8	4	6	2	7
E	B	A	E	B	S	N	U	S	D	L	E	E
4	5	6	2	7	2	6	7	3	8	4	7	8
U	C	A	X	S	E	T	Y	N	E	R	M	T
2	8	7	4	8	6	7	3	4	7	2	7	2
R	N	P	I	E	E	A	E	N	T	C	H	I
6	8	3	7	6	2	5	3	2	3	6	7	4
D	W	W	E	N	S	C	R	E	E	E	T	G
7	2	7	8	4	5	4	8	2	4	2	6	4
I	P	C	G	L	E	O	O	A	V	T	W	E
2	6	5	2	3	2	3	2	5	3	5	3	5
I	S	S	E	P	N	L	C	S	A	F	C	U
3	2	5	3	8	3	5	8	5	3	8	5	3
E	E	L	S	A	O	D	L	A	L	S	Y	D

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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Super Crossword

BUST SELLER

ACROSS

1 Sahara sight
6 Prop for Mr. Steed
10 Mack or Wass
13 Stream
18 Relative of 1 Across
19 Profess
20 Cooking fat
22 Famed futurologist
23 Start of a remark by Ron Luciano and David Fisher
25 Artist's gift
27 Faux —
28 Electronic device
29 Mata —
30 Report-card letter
31 Organic unit
32 Lady of the house
35 Bonus
38 Change for the better
41 Mouse
43 Baylor University site
44 "Topaz" author
45 Part 2 of remark
51 Tole metal
52 Pay to play
53 Nautical adverb
54 Private pension
55 Musical Myra
57 "Rule, Britannia" composer
58 Terrible
61 Fills the hold
63 Crooner Como
65 Run in the wash
66 Coypu or capybara
67 Ancient vessel
69 "Alceste" composer
70 False story
71 Fleet
72 "Carmen" composer
73 Carmen, for one
74 Cold-war assn.
75 Stylish
76 "Candid Camera" creator
77 Plod
81 Giant legend
82 Actor Julia
84 Mottled
85 Firefighter's tool
86 Part 3 of remark
92 Level
93 Whirlpool
94 Summer stinger
95 '90 film with 82 Across
97 Minister
100 Synonym source
101 55 Across' title
102 "— bin ein Berliner"
103 Kuwaiti kingpin
105 Froth
107 Schubert's "— Winterreise"
110 Had one's doubts
114 End of remark
116 In — (unborn)
117 Archaic cry
118 Tarry
119 Convent wear
120 Spine-tingling
121 Dated
122 "— You" ('55 hit)
123 Beethoven's "Fur —"

DOWN

1 Prettify a poodle
2 — Romeo
3 "The Say Hey Kid"
4 Funnyman Philips
5 Last name in cosmetics
6 Seasonal song
7 Zealous
8 Memo
9 Fluffy female
10 RN's specialty
11 Aviation pioneer
12 Night vision?
13 106, to Claudius
14 Part of the IRS
15 Susan Lucci role
16 Record
17 — up (excited)
21 — es Salaam
24 Mrs. Flintstone
26 Verbal explosion
31 — Cob, CT
32 Beach Boy Love
33 Coldest cont.
34 "Agnus —"
36 Ranks
37 Be a beau
38 Biblical book
39 Pennsylvania port
40 '50s car features
41 Boxer Liston
42 Table d'—
43 Jack Benny expression
46 Goldwater or White
47 Exalt
48 Less limited
49 Statistical focus
50 Kind of kiln
56 "Killer Tomatoes" sound
57 — rug
58 Where cats congregate
59 Ridge
60 Enchanted
62 "All in — work"
64 Raleigh's quest
65 Apiary sound
66 Engrossed
67 Newswoman Van Susteren
68 Valuable instrument
69 Columnist Smith
70 Rock's Lauper
71 From
72 Part of Indonesia
73 Visitor
75 "— in Disguise" ('67 hit)
76 Queue
78 Stromboli spew
79 The yoke's on them
80 Actress Rowlands
83 Nobelist Sakharov
84 Milk measurement
87 Permit
88 "Walden" writer
89 Driving hazard
90 "— you kidding?"
91 Really big performer?
92 Actress Arden
96 Don of "Cocoon"
97 Irritate
98 Intense
99 Like chiffon
100 Beatles beater
101 Fresh from the trail
104 Baseball's Berg
105 Kenton or Getz
106 Jack and Jill's vessel
107 Skater Thomas
108 Memphis deity
109 Tivoli's Villa d'—
111 — Lanka
112 Pump part
113 Banned substance
114 — Jima
115 "Silent" president

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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. MEDICAL: What are the symptoms of a person suffering from a scotoma?
2. INVENTIONS: What color were early Model T Ford autos?
3. FAMOUS PEOPLE: Where was the French emperor Napoleon born?
4. GEOGRAPHY: What is the basic currency of Singapore?
5. ASTRONOMY: Ganymede is a moon of which planet in our Solar System?
6. CHEMISTRY: What is the common use for the drug diphenhydramine hydrochloride?
7. ROYALS: Who was the second wife of Henry VIII of England?
8. MYTHOLOGY: Who was the Roman god of fire?
9. TELEVISION: What was Ethel's last name on the "I Love Lucy" show?
10. COMICS: In Superman comics, what was the motto of The Daily Planet?

Answers

1. A spot in the visual field
2. Black
3. The island of Corsica
4. Dollar
5. Jupiter
6. As an antihistamine to treat allergies
7. Anne Boleyn
8. Vulcan
9. Mertz
10. "Always First with the News"

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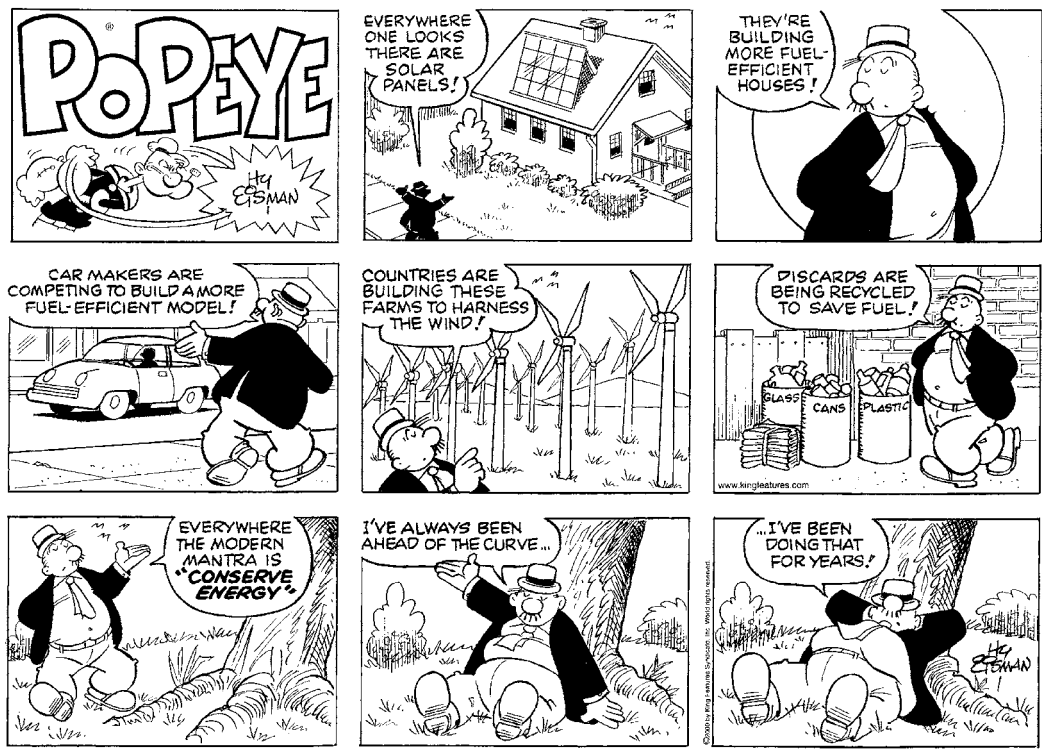
Saturday's Answers

POPEYE


HI-YA EISMAN
EVERYWHERE ONE LOOKS THERE ARE SOLAR PANELS!
THEY'RE BUILDING MORE FUEL-EFFICIENT HOUSES!
CAR MAKERS ARE COMPETING TO BUILD A MORE FUEL-EFFICIENT MODEL!
COUNTRIES ARE BUILDING THESE FARMS TO HARNESS THE WIND!
DISCARDS ARE BEING RECYCLED TO SAVE FUEL!
GLASS
CANS
PLASTIC
EVERYWHERE THE MODERN MANTRA IS "CONSERVE ENERGY".
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN AHEAD OF THE CURVE...
...I'VE BEEN DOING THAT FOR YEARS!
www.kingfeatures.com

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

YOU KNOW SON, I USED TO SIT ON THIS VERY LOG WITH MY DAD AND ASKED HIM ALL SORTS OF STUFF.
IN THAT CASE, WHERE DO BABIES COME FROM AND WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU DIE?
UH, I DIDN'T SAY HE HAD ANY ANSWERS, WE PRETTY MUCH SAT.
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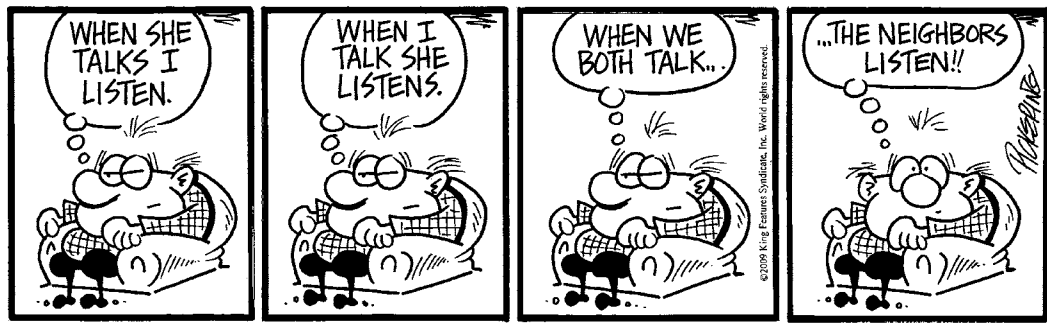
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering


WHEN SHE TALKS I LISTEN.
WHEN I TALK SHE LISTENS.
WHEN WE BOTH TALK...
...THE NEIGHBORS LISTEN!!
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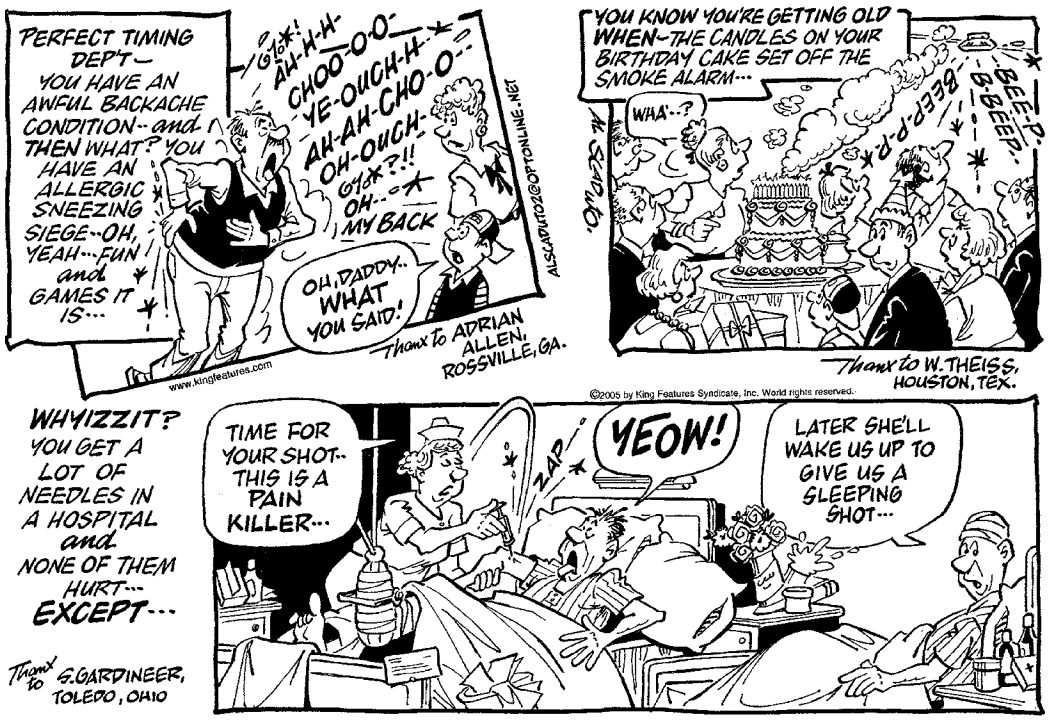
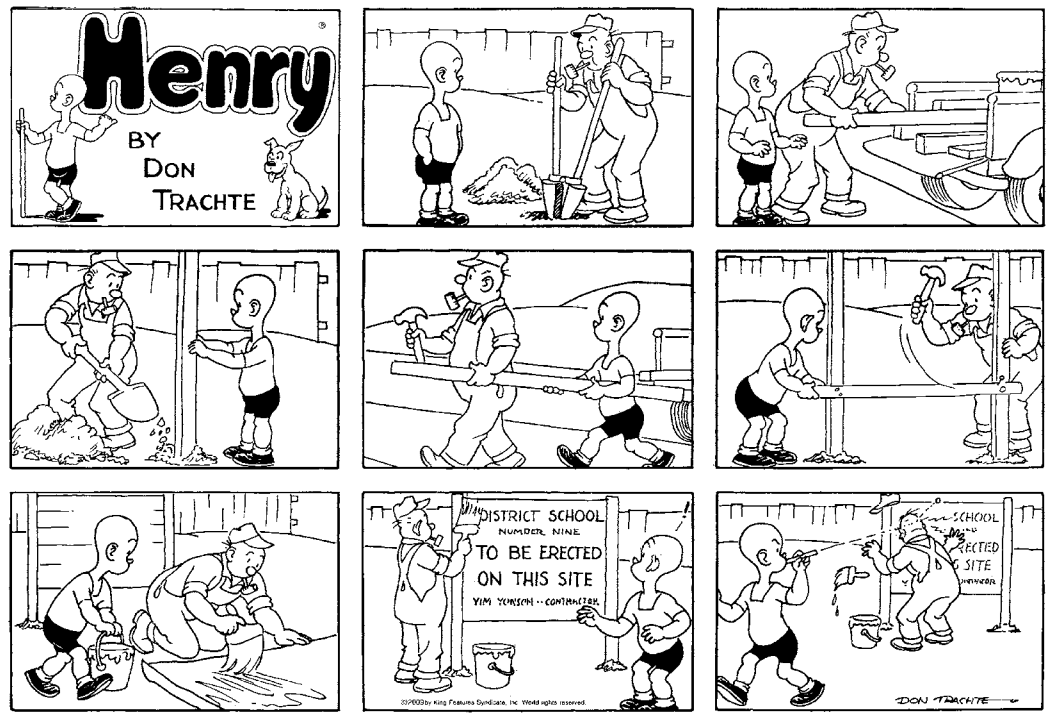
They'll Do It Every Time

by Al Scaduto


PERFECT TIMING DEPT— YOU HAVE AN AWFUL BACKACHE CONDITION--and THEN WHAT? YOU HAVE AN ALLERGIC SNEEZING SIEGE--OH, YEAH...FUN and GAMES IT IS...
AH-H-H-H-CHOO-O-O-YE-OUCH-H-AH-AH-CHO-O-OH-OUCH-?!! OH...MY BACK
OH, DADDY.. WHAT YOU SAID!
Thanx To ADRIAN ALLEN, ROSSVILLE, GA.
ALSCADUTO©2005 DIST. BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, INC.
www.kingfeatures.com
YOU KNOW YOU'RE GETTING OLD WHEN—THE CANDLES ON YOUR BIRTHDAY CAKE SET OFF THE SMOKE ALARM...
WHA'..?
BEEP-P-P-P-P
BEE-P-P-B-BEEP-
Thanx to W. THEISS, HOUSTON, TEX.
WHYIZZIT? YOU GET A LOT OF NEEDLES IN A HOSPITAL and NONE OF THEM HURT... EXCEPT...
Thanx to G. GARDINEER, TOLEDO, OHIO
©2005 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.
TIME FOR YOUR SHOT.. THIS IS A PAIN KILLER...
ZAP!
YEOW!
LATER SHE'LL WAKE US UP TO GIVE US A SLEEPING SHOT...

Henry

BY DON TRACHTE


DISTRICT SCHOOL NUMBER NINE
TO BE ERECTED ON THIS SITE
YIM YOMSON ... CONTRACTOR
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DON TRACHTE

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Dolores S. Villagomez
P.O. Box 500382
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No. 234-7632

pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE MATTER OF THE PETITION TO APPOINT GENERAL GUARDIANSHIP FOR: KYLE CHRISTOPHER F. SALONGA, MAEKAIKA ROSE F. SALONGA and RICARDO JR. SALONGA, Minor Children, By: DOLORES S. VILLAGOMEZ, Petitoner.	FCD GU Civil Action No. 09-0468 NOTICE OF HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Legal Guardianship for the above-named minor children by Dolores S. Villagomez, Petitioner, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court and is open for review at the office of the Clerk of the said Court in Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A HEARING of said petition for Guardianship will held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at Guma Hustisia Building, Susupe, Saipan, NMI, before the Honorable Kenneth Govendo on the 29th day of September, 2009 at 9 a.m. or as soon as thereafter.

/s/ Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

Michelle Taisacan
P.O. Box 501342
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No. 483-7528

pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE MATTER OF THE PETITION TO APPOINT GENERAL GUARDIANSHIP AND GUARDIAN OF ESTATE FOR : PAUL JACOB CAYANG TAISACAN, Minor Child, By: MICHELLE TAISACAN, Petitoner.	FCD GU Civil Action No. 09-0530 NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on September 28, 2009, at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 205A, before Associate Judge Govendo.

Dated this 18th day of September, 2009.

/s/ Bernadita Sablan
Clerk of Court

EMPLOYMENT

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✦ COMPLETE TURNKEY OPPORTUNITY
✦ $20,000 OR BEST OFFER
CONTACT MARY @ 287-4299

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Has openings for the following positions -
1 - Toyota Service Advisor
1 - Toyota Service Technician
Applicants must apply in person.
Phone inquires will not be entertained.
Applicants must be legally entitled to work in the CNMI.

WHATZIT Solution: Quick thinking

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 2-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

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Oceanview & Sunsetview Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

Quick

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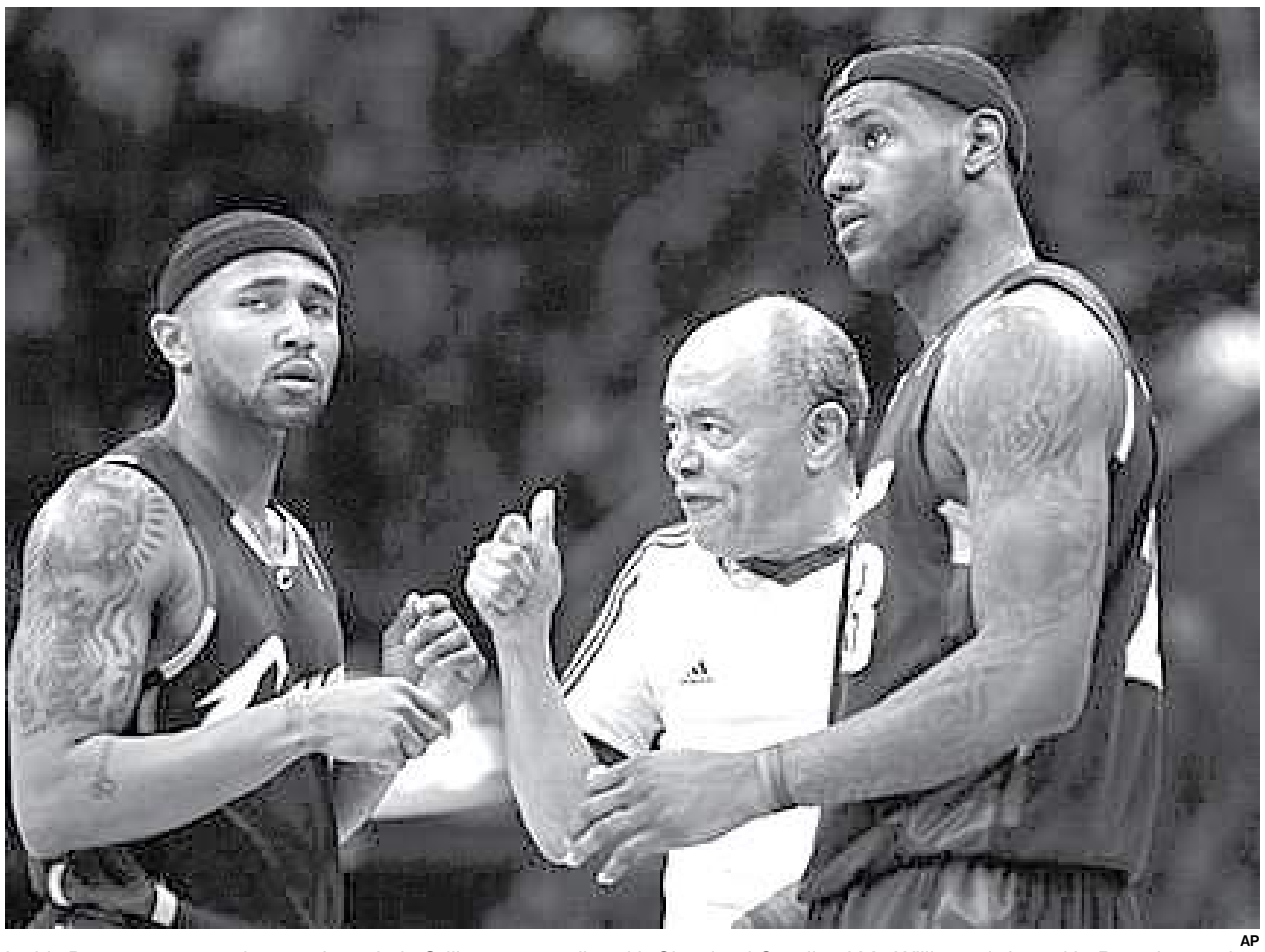
Find today's solution in this section

Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Fitial says decision to end Aggreko 'far from certain'
CUC emergency extended anew
'CUC unlikely to meet EPA deadlines'
Sports
Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper
235- NEWS

Refs spokesman: Lockout appears 'imminent'



AP

In this Dec. 25, 2008, photo, referee Luis Grillo, center, talks with Cleveland Cavaliers' Mo Williams, left, and LeBron James during a timeout in an NBA basketball game against the Washington Wizards in Cleveland.

NEW YORK (AP)—The lead negotiator and spokesman for the NBA's referees union said Thursday a lockout appears "imminent and unavoidable" following the latest breakdown in talks.

Lamell McMorris said the officials made another $1 million in concessions in their proposal, but believes it's evident the league is not interested in further discussions. The officials then headed home after spending the last 24 hours meeting in Chicago.

"It's become evident that the league would not be interested in continuing conversation at this time," McMorris said.

The NBA had a similarly pessimistic view.

"I'm not going to handicap it, other than to say there's always time to make an agreement if the parties want to do that," NBA general counsel and lead negotiator Rick Buchanan said. "I'm not optimistic based on what happened today. We'll just have to see what happens."

The contract between the NBA and its officials expired Sept. 1 and the sides have been trying to reach a new two-year deal. McMorris said they largely agree on salaries, but the union has balked at the league's attempt to change retirement benefits.

Besides the severance and pension disagreements, the officials are resisting a league development plan for young officials.

Without a new deal, replacement officials will be used when preseason play opens Oct. 1. The NBA last began a season without its regular referees in 1995-96, when the caliber of officiating was roundly criticized.

"We're prepared to be locked out by the NBA but also remain open to ongoing dialogue," McMorris said, adding that negotiations have been difficult because the league "has made pretty clear they have a goal they are trying to achieve as it relates to these long-term benefits."

All 57 active referees arrived in Chicago on Wednesday, meeting for more than seven hours and unanimously rejecting a proposal the league made earlier that day. McMorris said the officials reconvened early Thursday morning to finalize the counterproposal they made to the league.

Talks previously broke down after NBA commissioner David Stern ended a meeting in New York, saying the officials had reneged on previously agreed to items. McMorris sounded hopeful of a deal Wednesday night, but little progress was made in Thursday's talks.

"I would say that the parties had discussions today. They made some new proposals, we made some additional proposals. We didn't make a deal," Buchanan said.

McMorris previously said the officials, sensitive to the financial difficulties the league is facing, agreed to $2.5 million in concessions, but the league sought further cuts in areas such as the travel budget and per diems. Stern said the goal was to bring the referees' budget in line with other departments.

But McMorris said the officials are unwilling to accept any further changes to their retirement benefits.

"We've given so many concessions in other areas, a line has to be drawn," he said. "It has to be fair and equitable for everyone in our group."

McMorris said the referees won't be in New Jersey for their annual training camp, scheduled to begin Sunday. He praised them for the efforts they made in Chicago at their own expense, even while struggling to remain optimistic they could eventually pay off.

"I'm extremely proud of the 57 individuals that we represent. Their unity, the good-faith nature that they have sought to negotiate with their employee," McMorris said. "We're quite proud and confident that we've given it our best shot, that we've put forth a good-faith effort."

NBA BRIEFS

Judge: Maid's suit against Kobe Bryant can proceed

SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP)—A judge in California has ruled that Los Angeles Lakers star Kobe Bryant's former housekeeper can continue her wrongful discharge case but can't sue for emotional distress. Orange County Superior Court Judge Kirk Nakamura also ruled Thursday that Bryant and his wife Vanessa can pursue their countersuit against Maria Jimenez for violating a confidentiality agreement by talking to reporters about the family. The judge says Jimenez cannot sue for invasion of privacy because she knew about the video cameras in the Bryants' house. Her attorney, William Vogeler, says the ruling is still a victory for his client because the case can go forward. Jimenez says she was denied health insurance and was forced to quit because her employers demeaned and humiliated her.

Timberwolves sign Pavlovic to one-year deal

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—The Minnesota Timberwolves have added some much-needed size on the perimeter by signing 6-foot-7 shooting guard Sasha Pavlovic to a one-year deal. Pavlovic agreed to a buyout with the Phoenix Suns earlier this week. The Cavaliers traded him to Phoenix as part of the deal that brought Shaquille O'Neal to Cleveland. Now he comes to a young and rebuilding team with plenty of room in the backcourt. Pavlovic averaged 4.6 points and shot 41 percent from 3-point range in 16 minutes a game for the Cavs last season. The minutes could be bigger in Minnesota. Rookie first-rounder Wayne Ellington is the only other true shooting guard on the roster. Corey Brewer, a swingman who is coming off major knee surgery, is also in the mix. "We are excited to add Sasha to our team," president of basketball operations David Kahn said in a statement Thursday. "His size and athleticism will help round out our wing position and provide us added experience." It's the latest in a summer full of moves made by Kahn, who has spent his first four months on the job reshaping the roster to try and position the team to be a major player in free agency next season.

Trail Blazers sign Juwan Howard

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—Veteran forward Juwan Howard signed a one-year contract with the Portland Trail Blazers, the team announced Thursday. Howard a 15-year veteran, averaged 4.1 points in 42 games with Denver and Charlotte last season. Terms were not disclosed. "Juwan Howard will add a wealth of experience and veteran savvy to our young, talented roster," Blazers general manager Kevin Pritchard said in a statement. "We look forward to Juwan's contributions on the court and in the locker room." The 6-foot-9 power forward was the 14th player added to the Blazers roster in advance of fall camp. The Blazers have looked this offseason at a number of big forwards, including Stromile Swift and Greg Ostertag, before going with Howard. Howard, 36, has averaged 14.9 points and 6.6 rebounds in 1,043 games. He has appeared in the playoffs four times, averaging 9.8 points, 5.7 rebounds and 1.2 assists. Howard was the fifth player selected in the 1994 draft.

Desmond Mason signs deal with Kings

Free-agent swingman Desmond Mason signed a one-year contract with the Sacramento Kings on Thursday. Mason flew to Sacramento to meet with Kings officials and take a physical on Wednesday. The Kings announced the deal after getting the results of the physical Thursday. His deal is not guaranteed and will pay him the league minimum of $1.18 million. Mason, who turns 32 in October, played only 39 games last season for Oklahoma City, missing the second half of the season with a hyperextended right knee. He started 18 games, averaging 7.5 points and 4.0 rebounds for the season. The Kings already have Kevin Martin, Francisco Garcia, Andres Nocioni, Donte Greene and rookies Tyreke Evans and Omri Casspi in the mix as wing players. ***(AP)***

NFL BRIEFS

LT, Hardwick, Vasquez miss Bolts practice again

SAN DIEGO (AP)—The San Diego Chargers are inching closer to playing the Baltimore Ravens without three key offensive starters. Running back LaDainian Tomlinson, center Nick Hardwick and right guard Louis Vasquez all missed their second straight practice on Thursday, decreasing the chance they'll play against the vaunted Ravens defense. Hardwick and Tomlinson have sprained ankles and Vasquez a sprained knee. On Friday, the team will officially update their status for Sunday's game. "The odds go against you," coach Norv Turner said. "The guys that practice today have a better chance. For the other guys, their chances go down." Left tackle Marcus McNeill returned after missing Wednesday's practice with a hand injury. That hand was heavily taped and padded, but McNeill insists he'll play in the home opener. Nose tackle Jamal Williams also returned to practice after missing one session with a sprained elbow. If Hardwick and Vasquez can't go, backups Scott Mruczkowski and Brandyn Dombrowski will start in their places. If Tomlinson sits out—which seems increasingly likely—Darren Sproles and Michael Bennett will carry the rushing load.

Colts WR Gonzalez to miss 2-8 weeks

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Anthony Gonzalez may be out longer than the Colts first feared and they appear to have a replacement for him, too. Coach Jim Caldwell said the third-year receiver could miss up to two months after spraining ligaments in his right knee during Sunday's 14-12 victory over Jacksonville. Indy has signed former Philadelphia receiver Hank Baskett to take Gonzalez's place, and three-time league MVP Peyton Manning hopes he can find his way around the offense fast. The team made the announcement following Thursday's practice. "Hopefully we can catch him up as soon as possible," Manning said. "It's a lot of offense to learn in a couple of days but he's a veteran, so he could help us." The Colts play Miami on Monday night. Team president Bill Polian said this past Monday that the Colts would only sign a veteran receiver if Gonzalez was expected to miss more than four weeks. The next day, in an interview on NFL Network, Polian acknowledged Gonzalez was going to get a second opinion on the injured knee. Caldwell did not provide any new details about the injury Thursday other than to say: "It could be two to between six and eight weeks." Initial reports indicated Gonzalez would not miss more than six weeks.

Chargers, Lions get extensions to avoid blackout

SAN DIEGO (AP)—The San Diego Chargers and Detroit Lions were given extensions by the NFL on Thursday to sell out their home openers and avoid a television blackout. The Lions said they have about 1,700 tickets to sell by Friday afternoon for their game against the Minnesota Vikings to be televised in local markets. The Chargers said they have about 1,100 tickets remaining for their game against the Baltimore Ravens. The Lions had 50 straight sellouts at Ford Field until Oct. 26, 2008, when they played Washington. The team failed to sell out other games later in the season while setting an NFL mark with the first 0-16 season. Detroit lost its opener at New Orleans behind rookie quarterback Matthew Stafford, extending its losing streak to 18 games dating to the 2007 season. Both of the Chargers' exhibition games were blacked out locally, although the team hasn't had a regular-season blackout since 2004.

Hamels strikes out 10 as Phillies beat Nats

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Cole Hamels took a perfect game into the sixth inning, masterfully using his changeup while matching a season high with 10 strikeouts to lead the Philadelphia Phillies to a 4-2 win over the Washington Nationals in the National League on Thursday.

Hamels, the MVP of last season's NL championship series and World Series, allowed one run and five hits in eight strong innings. Hamels (10-9) even chipped in with an opposite-field RBI single to help the NL East-leading Phillies win their fifth straight game. Brad Lidge gave up a run in the ninth before finishing for his 30th save in 40 chances. Ross Detwiler (0-6) had perhaps his finest start of the season for Washington, striking out six and allowing one run in five innings.

AP

Philadelphia Phillies' Cole Hamels pitches in the second inning of a baseball game against the Washington Nationals, Thursday, Sept. 17, 2009, in Philadelphia.

Braves 7, Mets 3

At Atlanta, Brian McCann hit a tiebreaking three-run homer in the fifth inning as Atlanta downed New York for its seventh consecutive win.

The Braves moved 10 games over .500 for the first time since May 16, 2007. Atlanta (78-68) is 4 1/2 games behind NL wild card-leading Colorado.

New York (63-84) has lost five straight and nine of 10 to fall 21 games under .500 for the first time since Oct. 2, 2004, when it was 70-91.

Brewers 7, Cubs 4

At Chicago, Jody Gerut hit a grand slam and Mike Rivera delivered a key bases-loaded double as Milwaukee salvaged a split of a four-game series between teams finishing disappointing seasons.

After making the playoffs last year—Chicago as the NL Central champion and Milwaukee as the NL wild card—both teams are all but out of contention with 2 1/2 weeks left. The Cubs fell to 75-70 and the Brewers are 71-75.

Reds 3, Marlins 2

At Cincinnati, Jay Bruce singled with the bases loaded in the first inning as Cincinnati handed Florida a costly loss.

The Marlins wasted a chance to gain ground in the NL wild-card chase. They remained 4 1/2 games behind Colorado and a game behind San Francisco, both of whom were off. They couldn't break their extended slump at Great American Ball Park, where they've dropped nine in a row.

Matt Maloney (1-4) got his first career victory by going five innings and giving up a pair of runs. He started in place of Johnny Cueto, who became sick a day earlier.

Angels 4, Red Sox 3

At Boston, Howie Kendrick homered and went on to break a ninth-inning tie, and Brian Fuentes protected the lead as the Los Angeles Angels beat the Boston Red Sox.

One night after Fuentes presided over a collapse with two outs in the ninth, he helped the Angels snap the Red Sox's seven-game winning streak and hand them their first loss at Fenway in 11 games. Kevin Jepsen (6-3) got four outs, then Fuentes got the last two batters to earn his 42nd save and end Los Angeles' three-game losing streak.

Royals 9, Tigers 2

At Detroit, Zack Greinke lowered his major league-leading earned runs average to 2.14 with five scoreless innings in Kansas City's win over Detroit.

Greinke (14-8) allowed three hits, struck out eight and walked two. He has allowed only one earned run in his past four starts, lowering his ERA from 2.43.

The Tigers (78-68) AL Central lead over second-place Minnesota (74-72) was cut to four games. Detroit starts a three-game series at the Metrodome on Friday.

Rays 3, Orioles 0

At Baltimore, Wade Davis threw a four-hit shutout to earn his first major league win a Tampa Bay earned a split of the four-game series against Baltimore.

Evan Longoria had three hits and drove in a run for the Rays, who put a positive finish on a dreadful road trip. Tampa Bay went 2-9 against AL East foes New York, Boston and Baltimore.

Making his third big league start, Davis (1-1) struck out 10 and walked two in his first complete game. Davis capped his outstanding performance by striking out the side in the ninth. He threw 124 pitches.

Mariners 4, White Sox 3, 14 innings

At Seattle, Ichiro Suzuki hit a game-ending single to center in the bottom of the 14th inning, leading the Mariners over the White Sox.

Jose Lopez and Bill Hall each homered off Chicago closer Bobby Jenks in the ninth to tie it and deny the White Sox a chance to gain on AL Central-leading Detroit, which lost 9-2 to the Royals. Chicago, third in the division, trails Detroit by 6 1/2 games and Minnesota by 4.

Athletics 5, Indians 2

At Oakland, California, Kurt Suzuki hit a three-run homer in Oakland's win over Cleveland.

Adam Kennedy doubled twice and drove in a run for the A's, who have won four straight and nine of 11. Clayton Mortensen (2-2) pitched five innings to win his second consecutive start.

Trevor Crowe tripled home a run and Michael Brantley added an RBI groundout for the Indians, who have lost five straight and nine of 10. Lou Marson had a career-high three hits.

Feds fight for key evidence against Bonds

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Federal prosecutors urged a federal appellate court to reverse a trial judge and let them present critical evidence they say shows Barry Bonds knowingly used steroids.

Both sides fielded difficult questions Thursday from the three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. In a case stemming from Bonds' grand jury testimony in December 2003, the home run king pleaded not guilty to 10 counts of making false statements and one count of obstruction of justice. He is accused of lying when he testified that he never knowingly used performance enhancing drugs.

U.S. Circuit Judge Stephen R. Reinhardt appeared skeptical of the government's position while Judge Carlos T. Bea appeared to be searching for a legally sound way to have the evidence admitted. Judge Mary M. Schroeder sat in the middle—literally and figuratively—of the panel, asking few questions but appearing to lean toward Bonds' side.

At issue is whether evidence directly tied to Bonds' personal trainer, Greg Anderson, could be shown to the jury that will hear Bonds' case.

U.S. District Judge Susan Illston in February barred prosecutors from presenting the evidence, including urine samples the government alleges tested positive for steroids at the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative. The samples were purportedly delivered by Anderson to BALCO, the center of a sports doping ring. Anderson pleaded guilty in 2005 to illegal steroids distribution.

Illston said Anderson would need to testify about his role as delivery man to conclusively prove the samples belonged to Bonds. But Anderson told the judge he would rather go to jail on contempt of court charges rather than testify at Bonds' trial. The trial, which had been scheduled to begin March 2, was delayed indefinitely when the government appealed Illston's ruling.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Barbara J. Valliere, chief of the appellate section in San Francisco, argued Thursday that the government could prove the urine samples belonged to Bonds through the testimony of James Valente, a former BALCO executive. Valente is expected to testify that Anderson delivered the samples to him and identified them as belonging to Bonds.

Such second-hand accounts often are inadmissible as "hearsay" in court, which is why Illston ordered the evidence suppressed.

But there are several exceptions to the "hearsay rule," including the government's argument that Anderson was an "agent" or employee of Bonds authorized to speak on the slugger's behalf. If the appeals court accepts that rationale, the government would be able to present the urine samples and other evidence tied to Anderson through Valente's testimony.

"What evidence is there that the samples weren't altered?" Schroeder asked the prosecutor, who replied that there was an established "chain of custody" for the samples once they were at the lab.

"But you don't know what happened" before the samples were dropped off, Schroeder said.

Bonds' lawyer, Dennis Riordan, picked up on that theme by arguing that drug testing generally is plagued by "lies, forgeries and misstatements." Therefore, he argued, that the evidence can't be used unless everyone who handled the samples testifies.

He called the excluded samples "the most critical evidence in the government's case."

Legal analysts say the government's case would take a significant blow, but not a fatal one, if the lower court's ruling is allowed to stand. Prosecutors still have a 2003 urine sample tested by a laboratory not affiliated with BALCO they say belongs to Bonds and tested positive for steroids. Bonds' physical changes during his playing career, including apparent head and foot growth, also is expected to be used to support the government's case that Bonds knowingly used performance-enhancing drugs.

Once the appeals court rules, the case will be sent back to Illston, who then will reschedule Bonds' trial.

Bea dissented last month when the 9th Circuit held in a 9-2 decision that prosecutors illegally seized the drug records and samples of more than 100 major leaguers in 2004. Solicitor General Elena Kagan is considering whether to ask the Supreme Court to review that decision.

No Angels: Umps complain of verbal abuse by Angels

BOSTON (AP)—Umpires working the series between the Red Sox and Angels at Fenway Park complained Thursday that Los Angeles coaches were "unprofessional and unbecoming" after two close calls went against them at the end of Wednesday night's loss.

"Their deportment as we left the field, going through the Angels dugout, left a lot to be desired," plate umpire Rick Reed told the *Boston Herald*. "We filed a report after the game and I would think there will be a coach or two over there that would be regretting his actions today."

Angels manager Mike Scioscia called the accusations "absolutely wrong."

"There was nothing done in a threatening nature," he said after Los Angeles' 4-3 victory on Thursday night. "It was more along the lines of 'You've got to be kidding me.' ... It wasn't even directed at them—it was more venting in the clubhouse."

Attempts by The Associated Press to reach the umpires for comment before and after Thursday night's game were unsuccessful. A Fenway Park security guard who knocked on the door of their changing room before the game said they were unavailable because they were on a conference call with the commissioner's office; after the game, a reporter's request for an interview was similarly declined.

The *Los Angeles Times* reported that Major League Baseball was looking into it. Mike Port, baseball's vice president for umpires, did not return a call seeking comment.

"The World Umpires Association conducts itself in a professional manner and we expect everyone in and around major league baseball to do the same," union spokesman Lamell McMorris said. "We recognize that in the heat of competition folks get heated up and make mistakes. However, in this instance, we certainly look to Major League Baseball to address this matter in a manner that makes everything right."

The Angels were visibly angry in the ninth inning of Wednesday night's 9-8 loss when two calls went against them in what turned out to be a winning rally by the Red Sox.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	94	53	.639	—
Boston	86	59	.593	7
Tampa Bay	74	73	.503	20
Toronto	66	80	.452	27 1/2
Baltimore	60	86	.411	33 1/2

Central Division

Detroit	78	68	.534	—
Minnesota	74	72	.507	4
Chicago	72	75	.490	6 1/2
Cleveland	61	85	.418	17
Kansas City	59	87	.404	19

West Division

Los Angeles	87	59	.596	—
Texas	80	65	.552	6 1/2
Seattle	76	71	.517	11 1/2
Oakland	68	78	.466	19

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	85	60	.586	—
Atlanta	78	68	.534	7 1/2
Florida	78	69	.531	8
New York	63	84	.429	23
Washington	50	96	.342	35 1/2

Central Division

St. Louis	85	62	.578	—
Chicago	75	70	.517	9
Milwaukee	71	75	.486	13 1/2
Cincinnati	68	79	.463	17
Pittsburgh	55	89	.382	28 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	88	59	.599	—
Colorado	83	64	.565	5
San Francisco	79	67	.541	8 1/2
San Diego	66	81	.449	22
Arizona	64	83	.435	24

Yesterday's Games

Milwaukee 7, Chicago Cubs 4
Philadelphia 4, Washington 2
Cincinnati 3, Florida 2
Atlanta 7, N.Y. Mets 3
Kansas City 9, Detroit 2
Seattle 4, Chicago White Sox 3, 14 innings
Tampa Bay 3, Baltimore 0
L.A. Angels 4, Boston 3
Oakland 5, Cleveland 2

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

ROTARY STANDINGS

Sonics	3	0
Runnin' Rebels	3	0
Sparks	3	1
Sixers	3	1
G-Stars	2	0
670 Rollers 2	1	2
Saints	1	2
Rollers 1	1	3
Ol'Aces	1	3
670 Rollers 3	0	2
Hi-5	0	2
Celtics	0	3

FIESTA

From Page 28

24, will be 500m and 1,500m sprints, while the punishing 12 mile-long distance race is set on the next day, Oct. 25, cruising around Managaha Island.

Guam dominated the women's event by taking the 1-2-3 position when it hosted the event last year. Animun Tasi Metgot was first, Animun Tasi Fote placed second, and Guahan Flyers third.

In the men's division, HKIPC topped the event followed by Saipan Outrigger Canoe Club and Guam's Haggan

SOCC topped the men's event in Palau in 2007. It also won the same event in 2006.

A team from Northern Queensland of Australia took the women's plum in 2007.

Teams that register on or before Oct. 1 could avail of a discounted fee of only $300 per team. Those that register after Oct. 1 will be charged $400.

Information about registration forms, rules, discounted airfare by Continental Airlines and accommodation information, and a tentative schedule, can be browsed through www.saipanoutrigger.org. For more direct questions, email the race administrator at saipanoutrigger@gmail.com.

Pacquiao arrives, focuses on Baguio training

MANILA Philippines— Manny Pacquiao is back and, as promised, wasted no time whipping himself into shape.

Hours after arriving from a whirlwind promotional tour of four cities in the United Sates and Caguas in Puerto Rico, Pacquiao sweated it out Thursday by jogging around Brentville in Biñan, Laguna, where he owns a house.

Actually, Pacquiao was also able to jog around Central Park in New York on Thursday and played basketball in San Francisco on Sunday during breaks of his joint tour with Puerto Rican Miguel Cotto.

Pacquiao is gunning for Cotto's World Boxing Organization's welterweight crown on Nov. 14 at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

Jake Joson, Pacquiao's chief of staff, told the Inquirer that the pound-for-pound king is slated to go to Baguio City either today or tomorrow to begin his preparations for the megabuck bout.

Pending the arrival of chief trainer Freddie Roach, Buboy Fernandez will supervise Pacquiao's workouts, according to Pacquiao confidant Rex "Wakee" Salud.

Roach is flying out of Hollywood Saturday night in time for Pacquiao's four-week training camp in Baguio. The buildup culminates with another four-week training at Roach's Wild Card Gym in Hollywood.

AP

Boxer Manny Pacquiao, of the Philippines, smiles while answering questions from the media during a news conference in Caguas, Puerto Rico, Saturday, Sept. 12, 2009.

Upon his arrival at the NAIA, Pacquiao told the media that he's ready and focused for the hard work that lies ahead.

Pacquiao reiterated that eight weeks is just ideal for his training, unlike Cotto, who needs a longer time being naturally bigger. The two are fighting at a catchweight of 145 pounds.

Cotto started getting into shape as early as Aug. 3.

Meanwhile, Pacquiao lawyer Jheng Gacal is contemplating on filing libel charges against Floyd Mayweather Sr. for insinuating that Pacquiao, who displaced Floyd Jr., as pound-for-pound king, is taking steroids to beef up his body.

Pacquiao, who started fighting at 106 pounds, shrugged off the accusation, saying that he didn't even know how a steroid looks like. ***(PDI)***

BSA cancels games to give way for PCA fundraiser

All six games this Sunday in the ongoing 2009 Belau Softball Association League will be cancelled to give way to the Docomo/Palau Community Association 3rd Annual Softball Tournament at the Dandan Ball Field.

BSA president Brian Adelbai said the games would continue on Sept. 27 as scheduled.

The games that were supposed to be played this Sunday will be played after the regular season.

The cancelled games are Peleliu vs. Wazz-up, PIC vs. Asahi, AJ Falcons vs. IT&E, Haga-T vs. Brotherhood, Rip-It vs. TKK2, and Redmen vs. Pingelap.

Adelbai said that the Docomo/PCA tournament is an annual fundraising activity for the ongoing construction of the Abai (summerhouse) for the Palauan community on Saipan in Capital Hill.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The 2009 Belau Softball Association League has cancelled its games this week to give way to the Docomo/Palau Community Association 3rd Annual Softball Tournament. Photo above shows Kayangel Angels's Polanda Yamada in action in a recent tournament.

The tournament will use a double-elimination format with an entry fee of $200 per team. However, if there would be more than 10 teams that sign up, the fee would only be $150.

A guaranteed cash prize of $500 for the champion plus a specially carved trophy is up fro grab.

The tournament will be played on three weekends with the first one set for Sept. 19 and 20. The second part of the tournament will take place on Sept. 26 and 27, while the games in the third week will be played on Oct. 3. ***(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)***

Pete Reyes golf fundraiser on Sept. 26

Golf aficionados are invited to join a fundraising event on Sept. 26 at the Marianas Country Club for Senate President Pete. P. Reyes, who is seeking re-election in the November general elections.

Tournament director Juan Lizama Babauta said exciting prizes would we given out including $5,000 for the first player to make a hole-in-one in hole No. 16.

Showtime will be at 9am while tee-off is set at 10am.

The donation per player will be $100.

Tournament format for this fundraiser will be double peoria with the Top 5 finishers to win major prizes.

Other exciting activities at the fairways would be the closest to the pin contest and skills challenge.

There will be prizes also to be won for each flight category—championship flight and A, B, and C flights.

Lizama said there would be a banquet immediately after the tournament with raffle tickets to be drawn.

"We would like to extend our invitation to the golfers. Please support this fundraising tournament," Lizama said. ***(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)***

FITIAL

From Page 28

opening round.

Mesa, for his part, also came away a victor in that event when he TKO'd Slade "The Rage" Adelbai in the closing seconds of the third and final round. That win raised Mesa's mixed martial arts record to seven wins against six losses.

Aside from the Fitial-Mesa heavyweight bout, other Saipan vs. Guam matches in the fight card for PXC 18 are the following:

■ Saipan's Fasi "Quickdraw" Jesse against Guam's Brian "Shotgun" Howard in the 155-lb. division;

■ Saipan's Giovanni "Palaxi" Sablan against Guam's Kyle "Boom" Reyes in the 145-lb. division;

■ Saipan's Maitai "The Charger" Charlie against Guam's Micah Tobias in the 145-lb. division; and

■ Saipan's Leeroy Sablan against Guam's Rob Washington in the 155-lb. division.

Meanwhile, Saipan's "Kill" Bill Saures will square off against J.J. Ambrose from the U.S. mainland in the 180-lb. division.

Saures originally was set to take on Brazilian Danelo Velefort in the 185-lb. weight category, but Ambrose's opponent, Saipan Syl "The Deal" Teregeyo, had to pull out from the event on account of injury, necessitating the switch.

Established in 2003, PXC has hosted dozens of MMA events in the Pacific Region and looks to continue its expansion into the international fight scene.

JAPANESE

From Page 28

soon established a sister-club relationship with the local club and has since donated equipment and sent coaches and players to help MP United improve its teams.

MP United vice president Betty Johnson, for her part, thanked Vivid Blue and Suzuki for the donation and said the gear will go a long way in helping their club stay competitive in NMIFA leagues.

"We could never have enough soccer balls. We always need these equipment as the ideal is to have one ball for each player," she said.

MP United secretary Tina Goodwin seconded Johnson and said the club will forever be thankful for all the help Vivid Blue has extended to them. She said they are glad that Vivid Blue is their sister club.

As a show of their appreciation, MP United gave Suzuki and his associates, Shota Kojima and Taiki Iwanabe, the club's 2009 spirit shirts.

On the invitation of Vivid Blue, MP United's U14 Team visited Japan last June and played six games.

The team, composed of Joon Lee, Bo Barry, R.J. Knecht, Nuri Gutzwiller-Malakut, Evert Van Der Maas, Jasper Van Der Maas, Jehn Joyner, Dakota Hall, Jack Sharer, Angelo Jones, and Enrico Del Rosario, prevailed in their first three games despite playing on a different surface.

OL'ACES

From Page 28

Ol'Aces lost first three assignments to what Flores said are "the toughest teams this year."

He said their win over the Rollers I meant a lot for the boys.

"We are beginning to find the right chemistry. We were not ready yet as a team before. Our defense tonight is good unlike in our previous games when we lost by three points to G-Stars and the Saints," said Flores.

They lost by a big margin to the Sonics (51-38), whom Flores has high respect.

"The Sonics are young but very strong. I think that they're the team to beat," Flores said.

However, the team still needs to make up for lost time, adjust on both ends of the floor to be able to catch up with the leaders.

"Most of our players are first-timers in the Rotary. But we have played in the Christmas league before," Flores said.

With the win, Ol'Aces are now tied with the Rollers I with identical 1-3 records, good for eight to ninth in the team standings.

Luther Taylor finished with a team game-high 19 points, while Damian Deleon Guerrero had 15.

In the first game, the Sixers eked out a 39-38 win over the Sparks, leaning on leading scorer Ian Benavente's conversions from the free throw line.

Benavente finished with 10, while Novo Pepito had nine. Eugene Manglona and Ichitaro Faisao had 10 apiece for the Sparks.

Both teams are now tied at third to fourth places with 3-1 win-loss marks.

The undefeated Sonics and Runnin'Rebels currently lead the league with perfect 3-0 records.

First Game

Sixers 39 – Benavente 10, Pipito 9, Flores 6, Ada 6, R. Duenas 3, Salas 2, J. Duenas 2, Del Rosario 1.

Sparks 38 – E. Manglona 10, Faisao 10, M. Manglona 4, Hosain 4, Santos 4, Pagarao 2, Norita 2, Mettao 2.

Scoring by halves: 13-22.

Second Game

Ol'Aces 66 – Taylor 19, Guerrero 15, Dillay 6, Kautz 6, Ogumoro 4, Esteves 4, Chargualaf 4, D. Dillay 2, Deleon 2.

Rollers 46 – Williams 15, Brostrom 8, Ano 8, Tudela 6, Loano 5, Palacios 2.

Scoring by halves: 35-15.

Pacquiao arrives, focuses on Baguio training

Manny Pacquiao is back and, as promised, wasted no time whipping himself into shape.

27

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Refs spokesman: Lockout appears 'imminent'

The lead negotiator and spokesman for the NBA's referees union said Thursday a lockout appears "imminent and unavoidable" following the latest breakdown in talks.

25

Fitial not thinking of Roque yet

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial vows to take care of business when he faces Toby "Big Tobz" Mesa in Pacific Xtreme Combat 18: Dead Game 2 set for tonight at the University of Guam Fieldhouse.

The Marianas Elite fighter knows too well that a win over Mesa will immediately make him the No. 1 contender to the heavyweight belt currently held by Guam's Roque Martinez.

And that's why Fitial said he will approach his fight against the Psycho Gym with a lot of focus.

"I'm expecting a good fight and I'm also expecting my opponent to bring it. I'm ready because I've been training a lot. Been doing a lot of cardio… whatever goes," he said before boarding a flight to Guam Thursday.

Asked what will be the outcome of the bout, Fitial remained tight-lipped, saying that for sure both fighters will give the crowd a memorable match.

MARK RABAGO

Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial, left, in action against Manny "The Enforcer" Chong in Trench Warz X: Collision last July.

"I don't want to make any predictions but I know it will be a good fight. I know this guy is strong. I know he's a stand-up fighter. He's bigger than me but I'm faster and taller than him. If I win I will get a shot at Roque and that's what I want," he said.

Fitial comes into the fight with a record of 19 wins, seven losses, and a draw. His latest win came in Trench Warz X: Collision last July when he pummeled former PXC heavyweight champion Manny "The Enforcer" Chong into submission at the 4:47 mark of the

See FITIAL on Page 27

Ol'Aces barge into win column, stop Rollers I

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Ol'Aces finally found its rhythm after losing its first three games of the season.

Coach Sonny Flores said his players are just starting to realize that they are a force to reckon with in the league.

This after Ol'Aces posted a morale-boosting 60-38 victory over the undermanned Rollers 1 last Thursday night in the 2009 Rotary Club of Saipan Youth Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

"We have to maintain smart plays in offense and play hard on defense. You should attend our practices regularly. We have to keep our momentum," Flores told his boys seconds after the game.

See OL'ACES on Page 27

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Ol'Aces forward Loes Tomokane gets a hard foul from Michael Brostrom as Douglas Dillay joins them in this rebound action in the Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League Thursday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Japanese club donates gear to MP United

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The rich just got richer.

MP United, already one of the powerhouse teams in the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association, got an added boost last Saturday when the Vivid Blue Football Club of Japan gave it a donation of over $3,000 worth of soccer gear.

Vivid Blue president Kazunori Suzuki was present at the turnover ceremony held at MP United's home field at the Garapan Elementary School.

He said the donation are second-hand gear made up of socks, shirts, soccer balls, and other equipment. Vivid Blue players themselves donated the gear.

Suzuki said he became a supporter of MP United after he visited Saipan four years ago and saw that the island's fledgling football program needed help.

Always a soccer fan, Suzuki

See JAPANESE on Page 27

MARK RABAGO

MP United accepts Vivid Blue Football Club of Japan's donation of over $3,000 worth of equipment at the Garapan Elementary School field.

Fiesta Resort sponsors Micro Cup outrigger canoe

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan will be the official sponsor of next month's 11th Annual Micro Cup Outrigger Canoe, which is expected to draw teams from Japan, Singapore, Palau, Guam, and Hong Kong.

Aside from the five off-island teams, the CNMI will also be entered and organizers have also invited teams from Australia for the Oct. 24-25 event to be held in the crystal clear waters off Fiesta Resort and Spa's beachfront.

Around 30 teams compete each year with Saipan expected to enter five teams this time. Saipan last hosted the event in 2006, Palau in 2007, and Guam in 2008.

Events during the first day of competition on Oct.

See FIESTA on Page 27